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Couple in tune with last decision

CHOICE A world-renowned maestro, who was almost blind and growing deaf, found the music he loved was increasingly slipping out of reach. His wife of 54 years was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Their solution — Edward and Joan Downes decided to die together at an assisted suicide clinic in Zurich.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEE CONDUCTOR, PAGE 8

Caribana **Heating up**

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dancer Ashlie Valentine of Brampton turns up the heat during a performance yesterday for the launch of Caribana at Yonge-Dundas Square. More than one million people are expected to take part in this year's celebrations, which continues until Aug. 2. More coverage, page 3.

Vexed on visas

Czech ambassador recalled

The financial cost of handling the flood of asylum claims led directly to the controversial imposition of a visa requirement on Czech and Mexican travellers, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney says.

But the impact of the visa decision on the Conservative government's foreign policy agenda could be just as costly, threatening a proposed free trade deal with the European Union and marring a strategy of closer engagement with Latin America, observers said yesterday.

Czech officials reacted fiercely to the move, calling ambassador Karel Zebrakovsky home from Ottawa for consultations, and seeking support from the European Union.

EU diplomats said the 27-nation bloc could retaliate by forcing any Canadians visiting the continent to get a visa, though that is considered unlikely. Kenney said EU officials made no threats at a meeting Monday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Applications

- In 2008 alone, 9,400 Mexicans applied for asylum in Canada, triple the number in 2005. Those claims represent 25 per cent of all the refugee applications received last year in Canada.
- Since Canada lifted visa requirements for Czech visitors in 2007 to reflect its membership in the European Union, roughly 3,000 people have made refugee claims. In 2006, there were five claimants.

FocusOn FirstNations

For the next week, Metro Canada will be focusing on First Nations and Aboriginal news, community issues, arts and culture as part of a special series leading up to the Assembly of First Nations convention, July 21-23, in Calgary.

- Today
- **Tracee Smith on how arts can help Aboriginal youth, page 10**
- **Joseph Quesnel on the Nisga'a Landholding Act, page 10**

T.O.CivicStrike

The latest news about the Toronto city workers' strike.

- Today
- **Meeting urged, page 4**
- **Premier McGuinty weighs in, page 4**
- **Project in limbo, page 4**

Canadians don't mind Internet traffic cops: Poll

Most Canadians support the idea of Internet traffic management as long as all users are treated fairly, a new poll suggests.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima poll found only about one in five of those surveyed had heard of Internet traffic management or "traffic shaping," a contentious issue now before the federal regulator.

Internet service providers employ the practice, which slows down service to some users, to manage and prioritize online traffic during high-volume periods.

Sixty per cent of survey respondents said they found the practice reasonable as long as customers are treated fairly, while 22 per cent said Internet management is unreasonable regardless. Most — 54 per cent — said they did not know whether traffic management affects them personally. Just 15 per cent said they are affected by the practice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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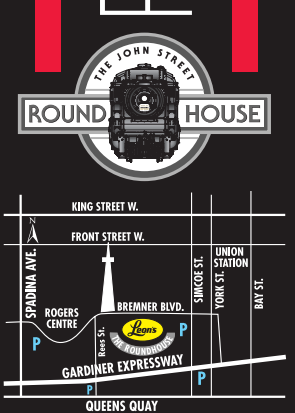

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Come see a cooking demonstration by award winning chef Michael Bonacini this Saturday from 12 to 5.

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Traffic stop yields cocaine bust

A 36-year-old man has been arrested after a police stop in Brampton led to the discovery of cocaine. The man was arrested at the scene, and police also seized the vehicle. Gianni Delmonte, 36, has been charged with possession of a controlled substance, and trafficking in a controlled substance. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Activist forces change to question period

To city politicians and staff, Mississauga citizen watchdog Don Barber, left, a passionate environmentalist who raises monarch butterflies at home, is a negative force, the reason behind council's decision last week to drop public question period after more than 30 years. Barber, who used question period for 15 years to poke, prod and insult councillors over their policies and decisions, will have to take his appearances to the committee level instead where there will be no community cable TV coverage and a 15-minute time limit. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Food

Check the food section for great recipes that will improve your cooking skills.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Special cart allows wheelchair-bound golfer to stay on the links at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video A Pakistani couple is forced to leave their kids behind after being deported at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Tourists delighted by the return of Mounties and their black steeds to Parliament Hill at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 5 2 4 **Ontario Pick 4:** 4 6 3 8
Encore: 2613827
Daily Keno: 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 20, 24, 34, 39, 41, 43, 48, 50, 54, 58, 61, 62, 63 and 64
These results are not official.

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Everything is irie Caribana

Organizers brush aside concerns

Calypso beats overpowered the downtown din, as thousands packed into Yonge-Dundas Square for the launch of Caribana yesterday afternoon.

And the 42nd opening carried an optimistic tune, as early concerns about the city strike ruining this year's celebration are starting to subside.

"We'll pick up garbage after the parade if we have to," said Merlyn James, a teacher who has spent 12 hours a day and more than $2,000 preparing her costume for the King and Queen competition.

At this point, there are no plans to cancel or relocate the King and Queen competition at the city-run Lamport Stadium on July 30, despite concerns the venue would be shut down.

There was also worry that, with ferries docked, the concerts on Olympic Island would be cancelled, but discussions are underway to move the Aug. 2 event to a new venue on the lakeshore.

This year's launch was moved from Nathan Phillips Square because of the strike. The city is working closely with Caribana organizers and city officials said the festival could be a "unifying moment" for a city frustrated by the strike.

400K Each level of government has given more than $400,000 each to support Caribana this year.

With that, Mas dancers took to the stage in vibrant costumes of bright colours and many feathers, moving their hips in impossible ways.

The crowd cheered and danced along, some as skilled as the colourfully feathered, others preferring a standard head bob.

More than one million people are expected to take part in this year's celebrations. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fundraiser **Jake's House**

DANNY BRIZZI/FOR METRO TORONTO

Brampton-born Rick Nash, right, of the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets joins Irene Bodanis, co-founder of Jake's House for Children with Autism, and Mia Rocco at the sixth annual Jake's House Golf Classic. The star-studded event kicked off with the arrival of a military helicopter.

Choose our future, urges summit report

GTA ISSUES The Greater Toronto region needs "a war cabinet" made up of politicians and economic development officers to promote the area as well as a financial services task force to come up with new strategies to focus on Canada's banking strength.

Those are two key recommendations in the final report of the Greater Toronto Region Economic Summit, due to be released today, on how to ensure a swift economic recovery for the region that stretches beyond Toronto and the 905 municipalities to Waterloo, Niagara, Barrie and Peterborough.

The report, Choosing Our Future: An Action Plan for Economic Recovery, emphasizes the need to think regionally. The ideas emerged from a summit held in May in Markham, co-chaired by Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion and Torstar chair John Honderich, that brought together regional leaders as well as Premier Dalton McGuinty, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Toronto Mayor David Miller. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Psychiatrist warns of Rengel conspirator's future

COURT A forensic psychiatrist says the 17-year-old girl convicted of Stefanie Rengel's murder could develop a personality disorder resembling Glenn Close's character in the movie Fatal Attraction.

Dr. Philip Klassen told a sentencing hearing yesterday that the girl, known as M.T., has issues with jealousy and anger and is more self-pitying than remorseful.

In his report filed with the Toronto court, Klassen writes that if her psychological presentation continues into adulthood she could evolve into a person with a "highly functioning" borderline personality organization.

Rengel was stabbed six times and left to die in a snowbank outside her home on New Year's Day 2008.

The Crown successfully argued that M.T., driven by jealousy, used sexual blackmail against her boyfriend, known only as D.B., to push him into killing the 14-year-old.

If sentenced as a youth, as the defence wants, she will face 10 years in custody. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TEEN The family of a teen slain by police can bring a precedent-setting $2-million negligence suit against the province's Special Investigations Unit, a judge has ruled. The teen's family alleges the SIU was negligent in conducting the investigation. None of the allegations have been proven in court. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Woman, 71, charged in fatal crash

A Mississauga senior has been charged with killing a man in a fiery crash. Randy Padmore, 51, of Mississauga died in the May 22 collision. Peel Police said a 1998 black Volvo collided with Padmore's vehicle with both cars bursting into flames. Urszula Grabiec, 71, has been charged. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Council may force special city meeting

18 aldermen sign petition, 23 needed for clerk to make call despite strike

A group of councillors is urging Mayor David Miller to call a special council meeting to address city business that hasn't been dealt with because of the strike.

The strike forced the cancellation of the July 6 and 7 monthly city council meeting, which was supposed to be the last one for the summer.

That means that full council hasn't dealt with items from several standing committees and community councils.

T.O.CivicStrike

So far 18 councillors — most of them critics of the mayor with the exception of councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, who is on Miller's executive committee — are in support of the special council meeting.

A total of 23 are needed to petition the city clerk, who would then call the meeting.

Yesterday a spokesperson for the mayor said Miller will call a special meeting of council "if and when it becomes necessary."

But councillor Peter Milczyn, one of the 18, said there's important city business to address, such as matters surrounding the revitalization of Union Station, and an environmental assessment to determine options for the Gardiner Expressway between Jarvis and the Don Valley Parkway.

"The elected body of (city) government must continue to function regardless of what challenges we face: Whether natural or man-made disasters, or a civic strike," Milczyn said in a written statement.

In an interview Milczyn said he's hopeful a one-day council meeting could be held by next Wednesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Union musings

- Mark Ferguson, who heads the union local representing outside workers, was low-key yesterday when asked about the state of talks between the city and its unions. "I've obviously been lying low with respect to comments regarding bargaining," Ferguson said. "All I will say is that we are at the table actively trying to work through our differences."

Housing project could be next victim

T.O.CivicStrike

Construction on an $80 million non-profit housing complex for 300 vulnerable women and children will likely grind to a halt in two weeks because striking Toronto planning staff haven't issued the necessary permits, says the YWCA Toronto, which broke ground on the project in January.

The delay will cost the social service agency more than $1 million in extra construction fees and penalties — money the agency doesn't have, said Joan White, director of housing, support and development for the Y.

The agency, which is raising an ambitious $15 million towards the project during tough economic times, is still scrambling to find donors for the final $5 million she said.

One option the agency's lawyers are considering is to proceed without the building permits and hire private engineers to certify the work, White said.

ADRIEN VECZAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The construction site at 87 Elm Street, the YWCA, a non-profit housing project for more than 300 vulnerable women and children will likely grind to a halt in two weeks because striking city buildings and inspection staff haven't issued the necessary permits.

The city's website notes any construction during the strike without proper permits is subject to penalties or a removal order. But city spokesperson Rob Andrusevich said the city is working with the Y to ensure the project continues safely.

The project on Elm Street — the largest private non-profit housing project in the city in a decade — has been in the planning stages for two years and is currently under excavation. It was on the verge of receiving full site plan approval from the city — including foundation and structural building permits — just as city workers walked off the job June 22. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

McGuinty hopeful dispute coming to end

BARGAINING There are signs of progress in Toronto's civic strike, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday, as he expressed optimism a resolution may be nearing in the weeks-long conflict.

"I like the way things seem to be evolving at this point in time; the signals that we are getting are positive," he said.

The city, McGuinty added, has made it clear "it means business" and workers seem to want to go back to work as well.

T.O.CivicStrike

"Both sides are very sincere in achieving an outcome," McGuinty said during a visit to Port Hope.

"Here there appears to be determination on the part of both sides to get this thing done, so there appears to be some progress underway and I would encourage both sides to continue talking."

McGuinty also weighed in on the case of a Toronto man whose death was being blamed on the strike. The man's loved ones say it took an ambulance about 30 minutes to come to his aid, despite three calls to 9-1-1, after he had an apparent heart attack.

"It is now incumbent upon EMS in Toronto to provide all necessary reassurances that all steps are being taken to ensure that in the case of an emergency, nobody's health is going to be compromised because of this strike," McGuinty said, also extending condolences to the victim's friends and family.

The head of Toronto's emergency medical service told a news conference yesterday any delays in treating the man had nothing to do with the strike.

EMS Chief Bruce Farr said the initial 9-1-1 call about the 50-year-old man did not indicate a "life-threatening" situation, and the crew responded within the usual time frame for such calls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ACCIDENT A 15-year-old Brampton boy struck by a car Friday night died in hospital yesterday. Colin Amediku was crossing Great Gulf Boulevard at Steeles Avenue East shortly before 10 p.m. Friday when he was struck by an oncoming 2002 Kia Magentis. He was rushed to a Toronto trauma centre where he remained in critical condition all weekend. Peel police say charges for the driver are pending as the investigation is ongoing.

BLAZE A carelessly discarded cigarette is being blamed for a three-alarm fire that broke out and damaged at least three homes in the city's west end Monday. Toronto fire services were called to 79 Fermanagh Ave., an older detached home near Dundas Street West and Lansdowne Avenue just before 10 p.m. The fire quickly spread to the attics and walls of two neighbouring houses, said Capt. David Eckerman.

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Family offers reward in missing woman case

A Brampton family is offering a reward for information that might help them find a missing mother and wife. At 9 a.m. on Feb. 5, Poonam Litt, 27, left her home at Bramalea Road and Bovaird Drive East in Brampton to go to work but has not been seen or heard from since. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Report blasts doc for post-lipo death

Delay in getting patient to hospital highlighted

Toronto mother Krista Stryland died from "massive blood loss" hours after a liposuction procedure performed by Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar in 2007, says an expert medical report done for the coroner's office.

Details of what may have caused the high-profile death were released for the first time at the launch of a disciplinary hearing into allegations that Yazdanfar committed "disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional" conduct in her care of 28 patients.

The provincial coroner's office has never released its final report on the death of the 32-year-old real estate agent at the request of the Stryland family, said regional coroner Dr. James Edwards.

But the expert report, prepared by an anesthetist, is "an important component of our investigation," he said.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar

No inquest was ever called into Stryland's death.

The expert report, dated May 16, 2008, identifies "hemorrhagic shock" as the cause of death.

It concludes that while Yazdanfar's pre-operative assessment was appropriate, there was a "major delay in getting (Stryland) into a hospital" after problems emerged.

"(Stryland's) condition became unstable at (1:15 p.m.) and paramedics were called at (3:52 p.m.). This implies that her grave condition … was not recognized."

Stryland's grave condition stemmed from a "massive amount of blood loss," the report says. It also concludes resuscitation attempts were limited.

Lawyers for the College of Physicians and Surgeons yesterday presented allegations that Yazdanfar repeatedly breached professional standards including using an "aggressive" liposuction technique that removed amounts of fat well beyond professional standards.

Lawyer Clayton Ruby, representing Yazdanfar in the hearing, said his client is the victim of a "turf dispute" between general practitioners who choose to perform lucrative cosmetic procedures and plastic surgeons looking to "secure a monopoly."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mulisms **Seeking a resting place**

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Atta Hussain started the Al Hussain Foundation Centre in Markham. It is one of the very few solely Muslim cemeteries in Canada. Muslim groups are seeking more sites in the GTA on which to build cemeteries that can cater to the unique needs of the Muslim community.

Toronto blogger sought by U.S.

EXTRADITION Toronto police say they have been contacted by U.S. authorities seeking to extradite Olukemi Olunloyo, who has been living in Toronto since 2007 and is wanted in the state of Georgia.

On Saturday the Toronto Star reported that authorities in Georgia have seven warrants for Olunloyo, a Toronto blogger, activist and publicist who goes by "Kemi" and says she wants to run for public office.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

MISSING Halton police are looking for an Oakville man who seemingly vanished "without a trace." Nelson Antonio Perez-Gutierrez, 36, was last seen July 5 near Dorval Drive and North Service Road in Oakville.

VIOLENCE A west-end neighbourhood, near the Queensway and Windermere avenues, was the scene of two violent attacks late Monday night. Shots rang out after midnight and moments before police received a second call for a stabbing in the same area. Two injured men were found.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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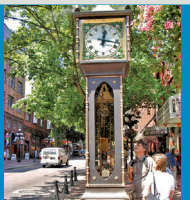
Suspect arrested after sexual assault in Alberta town

A man has been arrested in the vicious beating and sexual assault of a woman in Banff, Alta. The victim suffered injuries to her head and face and is recovering in hospital. Allen Patrick Slade Viscount, 38, is facing one count of sexual assault causing bodily harm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Gastown designated historic site

Vancouver's Gastown district has been designated a national historic site. MP Jim Prentice, who's responsible for Parks Canada, says the designation recognizes the role of the architecturally significant area in shaping Western Canada's economy. He notes that many of the commercial buildings dating mostly from 1886 to 1914 represent an early example of an urban historic district created by people involved in conserving heritage sites. THE CANADIAN PRESS

College crackdown sought

Illegal career schools preying on students: Ombudsman

Unregistered private career colleges run by "rogue operators" are preying on innocent students right under the government's nose, Ontario's ombudsman said yesterday as he urged the province to crack down on such "unscrupulous" operations.

Andre Marin was investigating Bestech Academy, which operated out of Stoney Creek, Ont., and St. Catharines, Ont., offering gas technician technology courses. Despite several warnings from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, president June Ballegeer operated Bestech for two years, between 2006 and 2008.

> **"The fact is, the (Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities) has never laid a charge or prosecuted an illegal college."**
> Andre Marin, Ontario ombudsman

Meanwhile, the ministry actually paid — through the Ontario Skills Development Program — for some students to attend, allowing Bestech to "line its pockets with public funds while flouting the law," Marin said in his report.

"I'm concerned about its systemic failure to enforce the rules governing private colleges — to the point that Bestech's president told us that she essentially ignored them because so many others were doing the same thing," Marin said at a press conference.

"The fact is, the ministry has never laid a charge or prosecuted an illegal college."

Marin noted many cases in which students lost thousands of dollars.

William Roberts, 57, paid $1,750 in tuition to Bestech and complained when he learned it wasn't accredited by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority. He received a partial refund, but Ballegeer's cheque bounced, the report says.

Mike Heywood, 31, gave up a part-time job to attend Bestech, paying $2,578 in tuition for a course that had only two students and photocopies instead of textbooks. His classes were repeatedly cancelled without explanation before the school closed its doors for good, just weeks later, Marin states.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mexico **Visas required**

FERNANDO LLANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Canadian embassy employee, left, hands out visa information to people lined up outside the embassy in Mexico City yesterday. The Canadian government announced travellers from Mexico and the Czech Republic are required to have visas to get into Canada, effective yesterday.

Cost for reactors won't derail nuclear plan: Premier

ENERGY Ontario's nuclear ambitions will not be derailed by a reported $26-billion price tag for two new reactors, and the province remains confident Ottawa will secure a better bid from Crown-owned Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

"It's expensive, so we've got to keep talking," McGuinty said. "The purpose of the discussion is to land at something that's more affordable for us."

McGuinty wouldn't discuss the details of a bid to build two new reactors in Darlington, east of Toronto. Still, he didn't refute reports that the costs had more than tripled from early estimates to $26 billion — a total that would wipe out the whole amount budgeted for nuclear expansion in the province.

McGuinty said he urged Ottawa to take into account the future of Canada's domestic nuclear industry as it "sharpens its pencils" to try to help top bidder AECL come up with a more competitive deal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal disapproval

- Just last month, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's chief spokesman labelled Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. a dysfunctional, $30-billion "sinkhole that will not get any more funding for a new research reactor."

2 sentenced for pot smuggling

CRIME Two men have been sentenced for their roles in smuggling marijuana from Canada into the United States.

Burton Jacobs, 42, was sentenced Monday to four years; Randall Blake, 44, was given seven years.

Court documents say Jacobs, Blake and their accomplices smuggled between 3,000 and 9,000 kilograms of marijuana between 2001 and 2006.

Prosecutors say the drugs were supplied by people tied to Italian organized crime in Montreal.

Court records say the defendants walked across the border, met the Canadians just north of the border and smuggled the bags of pot in. Prosecutors say drivers hired by Jacobs then drove the bags to U.S. cities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

Windsor cabbies accept new deal
Striking taxi drivers at Veteran Cab in Windsor have voted 77 per cent in favour of a new deal. It's almost the same proposal that more than 300 striking drivers voted down by 65 per cent last week. The deal ends a 105-day strike. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The speed of raindrops

Research shows that size matters when it comes to rain

Environment Canada is predicting showers this evening with a risk of thunderstorms — and according to new research that means we're in for a display of physics-bending splendour.

A team of scientists recently studied 64,000 individual raindrops with the goal of understanding the details of how raindrops form.

"But as we started to look at the data we realized there are drops that break the speed limit" and seemingly defy the laws of physics, says Raymond Shaw, a professor of atmospheric physics at the Michigan Technological University.

"But as we started to look at the data we realized there are drops that break the speed limit."
Raymond Shaw, professor

Conventional wisdom suggests bigger raindrops fall faster than their smaller counterparts.

But Shaw's team discovered smaller raindrops can actually fall faster. In fact, in a heavy rainstorm, they can fall faster than "terminal speed," the fastest speed possible according to the forces of gravity and air resistance.

The researchers, based at Michigan Tech and the National University of Mexico, studied the raindrops photographed in Mexico City over three years.

Shaw's research has implications for weather forecasting.

If computer models don't allow for a certain category of raindrop, one that until now wasn't known to exist, forecasts could be off.

"We almost blindly accept (terminal speed) as the truth, and therefore we calibrate our radar based on that, but maybe we have to challenge even the calibration because of what these scientists have come up with," said David Phillips, a senior climatologist with Environment Canada.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Khadr supporters up pressure on feds

DETAINED On Omar Khadr's 2,545th day in custody, on the eve of his court hearing in Guantanamo, supporters in Toronto stepped up the pressure on Ottawa to bring him home.

"Omar Khadr is not a random person who has been detained by the U.S. — he is a Canadian," Shanaaz Gokool of Amnesty International said yesterday. "He is you, he is me, a benchmark on how we can be treated."

Khadr's case smacks of double standards, said Barbara Jackman, immigration and refugee lawyer.

"The current government seems to think it can select which Canadian it wants to help — human rights don't work that way," Jackman said to loud applause.

James Loney, once held hostage in Iraq, wondered why "some citizens get help, others don't."

He cited the case of Brenda Martin, held in a Mexican prison and brought home by the government, and Abousfian Abdelrazik, the Canadian who was stranded in Sudan for six years and returned this month.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Trip **Emperor bids farewell**

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Emperor and Empress of Japan were guests at a farewell reception yesterday as they prepared to end their 12-day tour of Canada. As Crown Prince, Akihito first visited Canada in 1953. At yesterday morning's reception he was introduced to several people he met during his first visit to Vancouver.

Deported Pakistani couple leave behind four children

REFUGEE The Canada Border Services Agency says a Pakistani couple fighting a deportation order that would separate them from their four children have been removed from the country.

Spokeswoman Kareen Dionne says Sabir Mohammed Sheikh and his wife Seema were deported early yesterday morning and turned over to U.S. authorities.

The couple, who fear persecution if returned to Pakistan, were able to go to the United States because they came to Canada through that country in 2000.

Their refugee status was revoked in 2007 after authorities learned they had lied about how long they lived in Dubai after leaving Pakistan.

Their grown-up children were granted a stay and will now look after Sabrina, their five-year-old Canadian-born sibling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY FOR ONTARIO

The Ontario government is consulting on a Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy for Ontario.

We encourage the public, our partners and stakeholders to provide pragmatic, specific and affordable solutions to assist in building this plan.

Consultation documents that outline the draft vision, principles and goals of a long-term affordable housing strategy are available at all consultation sessions, at www.ontario.ca/housingstrategy or by calling ServiceOntario Publications at 416-326-5300 or toll-free 1-800-668-9938 (TTY toll-free: 1-800-268-7095).

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Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Community Homes
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TTC Bus 132 Milner or 102 Markham Road

Downtown Toronto

Wednesday, July 22, 2009
Afternoon Session: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Evening Session: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
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Armstrong cheque written morning of moon launch being auctioned

A $10.50 cheque for money borrowed from NASA manager Harold Collins that astronaut Neil Armstrong wrote the morning he blasted off for the moon 40 years ago is being auctioned. RR Auction says Armstrong wrote it in case anything happened to him, but told Collins not to cash it because he would return. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Wedding bouquet toss goes awry

A wedding in the Tuscan countryside ended with injuries after an attempt to launch the bride's bouquet from a plane brought down the tiny aircraft. Italian police say two people were hurt in the crash of the ultralight plane after the bridal bouquet they launched got caught in the aircraft's rear rotor. The flowers blocked the engine, bringing the plane down by a youth hostel. The bride and groom were not aboard the plane. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conductor uses suicide clinic

He spent his life conducting world-renowned orchestras but was almost blind and growing deaf. His wife of 54 years had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. So Edward and Joan Downes decided to die together.

Downes — Sir Edward since he was knighted by the Queen — and his wife ended their lives last week at a Zurich, Switzerland, clinic run by an assisted suicide group. They drank a small amount of clear liquid and died hand-in-hand, their two adult children by their side. He was 85 and she was 74.

"After 54 happy years together, they decided to end their own lives rather than continue to struggle with serious health problems," said a statement from the couple's son and daughter, Caractacus and Boudicca.

"They wanted to be next to each other when they died," Caractacus Downes told London's Evening Standard newspaper.

"They held hands across the beds."

One of Britain's most renowned conductors, Downes had a long and eminent career, which included years as head of the BBC Philharmonic and a five-decade association with the Royal Opera House.

Joan, a former ballet dancer, choreographer and television producer, had devoted years to working as his assistant, but she was recently diagnosed with cancer of the liver and pancreas and given only weeks to live. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calls for change

- The double suicide is the latest in a series of high-profile cases that have spurred calls for a legal change in Britain, where assisted suicide and euthanasia are banned.

Nepal **Tibetan protest**

BINOD JOSHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Tibetan exile living in Nepal shouts slogans against China's government during a protest in front of the United Nations office in Katmandu yesterday.

Iran carries out mass execution of terrorists

HANGINGS Iran hanged 13 members of a Sunni Muslim rebel group yesterday convicted of bombings and killings in the country's southeast, the state news agency reported. The execution was the largest ever carried out against members of Jundallah and was likely meant as a warning to the group, which is composed of Sunnis from the Baluchi minority.

They have waged a low-level insurgency in recent years, accusing the mostly Shiite and Persian Iranian government of persecution. Three other men convicted of a bombing in May were hanged two days after the attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brigades tailored for withdrawal

IRAQ The U.S. Defence Department has created, and ordered to Iraq, four custom-made Army brigades designed to focus more on advising Iraqis and less on fighting as America prepares for its 2011 exit.

The new units are among 30,000 troops being sent to Iraq, starting later this year. Another 7,500 are going to Afghanistan. Thy are built around a combat brigade team but instead will focus on stability operations. They also are tailored to include engineers, military police, civil affairs officers and people to help with transportation needed for the State Department's reconstruction teams. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hacker's lawyer fights extradition

BRITAIN Prosecutors failed to consider the human rights argument against forcing an autistic British man accused of hacking into U.S. military computers to stand trial in the United States, a defence lawyer said yesterday. U.S. prosecutors accuse Gary McKinnon, 43, of breaking into 97 computers belonging to NASA, the U.S. Department of Defence and several branches of the military soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. McKinnon says he was looking for evidence of UFOs. British courts have rejected several attempts to block his extradition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio executes convicted killer

U.S. A former Oregon truck driver who went on a multi-state killing spree was executed by lethal injection yesterday for murdering an Ohio man in 1991. John Fautenberry, 45, was pronounced dead at 10:37 a.m. at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, about two hours after the U.S. Supreme Court denied a request to delay his execution on a claim that he had brain damage. Fautenberry was sentenced to death for killing Joseph Daron Jr., who picked up the hitchhiking Fautenberry east of Cincinnati. Fautenberry also confessed to killing four people in three other states in late 1990 and early 1991. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S., Cuba open discussions again
The United States and Cuba are renewing negotiations on the U.S.-Cuba Migration accords. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ready for any N. Korean actions

Commander says they can intercept missiles

The top U.S. military commander in Korea said yesterday that U.S. and South Korean forces are prepared for "anything North Korea can throw at us," regardless of the state of leader Kim Jong Il's health or of internal North Korean politics.

General Walter "Skip" Sharp told reporters that Kim should stop threatening the world with nuclear and missile tests and instead take care of his people and follow through on past commitments to abandon nuclear weapons programs.

The U.S. and North Korea's neighbours are working to enforce sanctions imposed by the United Nations to punish North Korea for its nuclear test in May, even as they push the North to resume stalled six-nation nuclear disarmament talks.

Sharp, who spoke by video conference from New York, said that if diplomatic efforts fail, he is "absolutely confident" that the U.S. and South Korea can intercept North Korean missiles fired at the South and quickly and successfully defeat any land or sea attacks.

The North has threatened military retaliation against the U.S. and its allies if provoked and has boasted of a strong army. North Korea devotes much of the country's scarce resources to its 1.2 million-member military.

The U.S., South Korea's top ally, has 28,500 troops stationed in the country as a deterrent.

South Korea has about 650,000 troops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Border patrol

- North and South Korea face off across the world's most heavily fortified border, the so-called Demilitarized Zone that has separated the two neighbours since the Korea War ended in 1953.

News in brief

DEAD WRONG A South Carolina judge revoked the license of a funeral home where a worker cut the legs off a 6-foot-7 body so it would fit in a casket. The ruling may be the end of the family business, founded 49 years ago.

RACISM CHARGE Iran has reacted with outrage over the stabbing death of an Egyptian woman in a German courthouse, calling it a sign of racism against Muslims.

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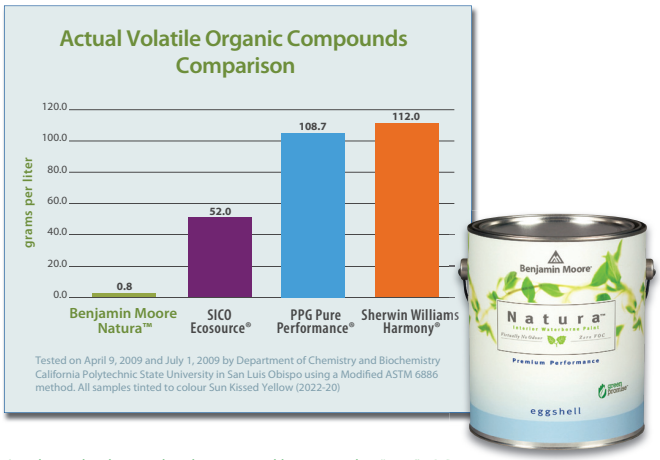

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Comment

Life-changing experience through arts

Tracee Smith

Aboriginal students on reserves do not enjoy the rich programming those at publicly funded schools do. The majority of our 630 Aboriginal communities do not have the economic base — or geographic proximity — to offer dance classes, piano lessons, or graphic design instruction that enrich the education of other Canadians.

Meanwhile, 70 per cent never graduate from high school, a figure that is critically important considering we are the fastest-growing population in Canada, with half of our 1.5 million people younger than 25.

But there are possibilities to inspire and nurture Aboriginal students.

I was once teaching dance in an isolated northern Ontario reserve when I realized how proud the youth were to perform in front of their community. I thought: "What if I could get them performing in a huge theatre, with lights, and hundreds of people in downtown Toronto — how would those youth feel then?"

Hence, the founding of Outside Looking In (OLI). Now in our third year, we are the only national charitable organization that works with Aboriginal communities and organizations throughout the academic year to bring kids from reserves to Toronto to perform, all through the power of the arts.

FocusOn FirstNations

Students are instructed by professional dancers from Canada and the U.S.

The important — and only — catch is this: All participants must be in good academic standing and attend all of our rehearsals.

It's no easy task: These students are accountable to OLI and to themselves to earn every bit of success. The main event is the performance they worked so hard to create. Through that event they feel what it is like to be treated like true stars — to get their hair and makeup done by professionals and sign autographs after the show.

While every participant has said OLI has changed their life, in some cases it has saved their lives. The majority of Aboriginal youth are considered at-risk with a lack of opportunities. Having these students succeed beyond their community boundaries gives them hope that they can succeed as long as they work hard, stay in school, and pursue their passion and dreams.

I tell them it is up to them individually on how bright they want their light to shine, and each day is a choice to make that happen.

To learn about sponsorship and donation opportunities with OLI, go to www.olishow.net or email info@olishow.net

Tracee Smith, a member of the Missanabie Cree First Nation in northern Ontario, is a professional dancer and choreographer and founder of Outside Looking In.

Views

Nisga'a at fore of historic legislation

Joseph Quesnel

A historic conversation is occurring on a section of "Indian country" in northwestern British Columbia. Nisga'a First Nations people are debating legislation that may allow individual Nisga'a to own private land they can transfer to whomever they wish, Nisga'a or non-Nisga'a.

The Nisga'a Landholding Transition Act would permit individual Nisga'a to hold land in transferable "fee simple." Properties would be registered and protected in the Nisga'a Land Title Office.

This proposal would create real property rights, meaning land can be transferred to whomever one chooses.

This would be precedent setting since, under the Indian Act, on-reserve First Nations do not own their own land, which is held solely by the Crown.

On reserves, title is normally provided to individuals through certificates of possession distributed through band council. But these certificates are only transferable to other band members and exist at the whim of political leaders.

But Nisga'a, under their modern treaty passed by Parliament in 2000, are not governed under the Indian Act and their new agreement with the government placed ownership of Nisga'a land with Nisga'a Village governments.

FocusOn FirstNations

Now, this same government proposes to allow individuals to claim residential plots. It is a small step, as the plots can be no more than 0.2 hectares (about half an acre), but this will allow for wealth creation and economic development on Nisga'a territory.

Wealth creation and poverty reduction are intimately connected to the institution of private property.

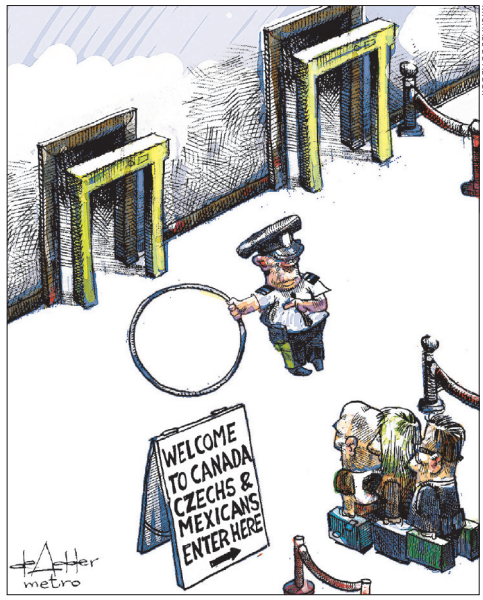
To grant individual property rights to Nisga'a residents will allow Nisga'a to leverage this land to secure credit and start businesses.

The debate in the Nisga'a territory must occur on First Nations territories everywhere.

Indigenous Canadians need to bring Indian Act bands and other indigenous communities into a robust system where land can be easily transferred to individual First Nations.

Then a real revolution for all indigenous people can occur.

Joseph Quesnel is a policy analyst with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, where he writes on Aboriginal issues. www.fcpp.org



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Auto services supplier reaches deal with union
Automodular Corp. has a renewed two-year agreement for its Oakville-area workers represented by the Canadian Auto Workers union, the automotive services supplier to three auto manufacturing plants in Ontario and Ohio announced yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Home sales soar in June

Up 17.9% from a year ago

Canadian existing homes sales soared in June, up 17.9 per cent year over year to 54,416 units, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association in a report yesterday.

The national average sale price also reached new heights on a monthly basis, climbing 3.6 per cent year over to $326,613.

On a quarterly basis, sales in the second quarter were up 1.4 per cent, marking the first year over year increase in such activity since 2007.

The solid numbers beat consensus estimates by analysts and took some market watchers by surprise.

"Canada's housing market looks to have managed the equivalent of the great escape from the clutches of a lengthy, painful downturn," said BMO Capital Markets economist Doug Porter. "The rapid fire rebound in Canada's housing market is the most astonishing economic development of 2009."

A jump in five-year mortgage rates in June also may have been a contributing factor to the boom. Posted rates at some banks went to 4.49 per cent from 3.79 per cent that month.

That mini-bump in demand, combined with less inventory has put pressure on prices, despite the fact Canada is officially in recession. However, analysts warned the months ahead could be more volatile as the effects of the recession linger.

The Canadian Real Estate Association has forecast a 5.2 per cent average price decrease by the end of 2009 compared with 2008. But, based on improving conditions, the association now expects sales transactions in the second half will exceed the first half.

Analysts also expect pressure on prices to ease as more listings come onto the market in the second half. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Construction

- Investment in non-residential building construction totalled $10.6 billion in the second quarter, a 2.8 per cent drop from the first quarter and the second straight quarterly decrease.
- Statistics Canada reports investors spent $6.3 billion on commercial projects, down 4.1 per cent.
- Investment in industrial construction fell 7.9 per cent to $1.2 billion.
- Institutional building construction continued to rise, up 2.1 per cent to $3.1 billion.

New vehicle sales up in May, down in June, StatsCan says

AUTOS Increased truck sales led to a one per cent rise in the number of new motor vehicles sold in May, to 121,348. Statistics Canada notes new-vehicle sales have been on the rise after falling sharply in the latter part of 2008.

But the agency reports preliminary industry data indicate the number of new motor vehicles sold fell about one per cent in June.

Sales of new trucks (minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) were up 2.2 per cent to 61,392 in May. Truck sales exceeded passenger car sales in May for only the fourth time in the last 10 years.

The number of new passenger cars sold in May was down 0.3 per cent, totalling 59,956 vehicles.

Sales of North American-built passenger cars rose 1.4 per cent from April, when sales were at their lowest level since October 1982.

Sales of overseas-built passenger cars fell 2.4 per cent in May.

Higher sales were recorded in seven provinces in May. The main contributor to the increase in Canada was a two per cent gain in Ontario. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doggone! Airline strictly for pets

DAVE WEAVER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pet Airways co-founder Alysa Binder holds her dog, Zoe, in Omaha, Neb., during a trial run for the first-ever all-pet airline started by Binder and her husband, Dan Wiesel. The first flight took off yesterday. Pet Airways flies from smaller airports in five U.S. cities — New York, Washington, Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles. The $250 US one-way fare is comparable to pet fees at the largest U.S. airlines. Flights on Pet Airways are already booked for the next two months.

Business in brief

COMPUTERS The global PC market is set to suffer a rare decline this year, while notebook shipments will surpass desktop sales for the first time, a technology research firm forecast. Global shipments of PCs are on track to drop to 287.3 million units this year, down four per cent from 299.2 million units last year, said iSuppli Corp., based in California. It would be the first decline since the tech boom went bust in 2001, the firm noted.

ESPIONAGE Executives of five Chinese steelmakers are being questioned in an espionage probe of four detained Rio Tinto employees. The Rio employees, including an Australian, were detained July 5 amid iron ore price talks. State media say they are accused of bribing Chinese employees to obtain confidential information on China's negotiating position. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bidding war for Nortel assets likely, warns Nokia Siemens

JOBS Nortel Networks could face further job cuts if a bidding war breaks out for its assets, says an executive at Nokia Siemens, which is leading bids for the fallen technology giant's wireless business.

Sue Spradley, North American head for Nokia Siemens Networks, says she anticipates more interested bidders will materialize before the July 21 deadline for submissions.

But she said it will be a fine balancing act between properly valuing Nortel and being forced to overpay and later slash operations to recoup costs.

Nortel announced last month that it had signed a deal to sell most of its wireless business to Nokia Siemens for $650 million US. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rules foil ventures, says wind association

TURBINES A majority of "construction ready" wind projects in Ontario won't go forward if the province passes regulations that keep wind turbines a minimum distance from residences, roads and railway lines, warns Canada's wind energy association.

"The net effect is that 79 construction-ready projects representing 2,591 megawatts would either be rendered immediately non-viable or would require a complete 'back to the drawing board' redesign," said association president Robert Hornung.

103
More than three-quarters of 103 advanced-stage wind projects will likely be affected if the new rules are enacted, says wind association president Robert Hornung.

The association is concerned about two rules — one that would require turbines to be 550 metres from residences, and the other that would require turbines to be 120 metres or more from roads, railway lines, and property lot lines. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ADVANCING GENERICS

Rock name new coach

The Toronto Rock have hired Troy Cordingley as their new head coach. Cordingley spent the last two seasons as head coach of the Calgary Roughnecks, leading the team to an NLL title earlier this year and being named the 2009 NLL coach of the year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Nadal plans to play in Montreal

Spain's Rafael Nadal, left, plans to return to the ATP Tour next month in time to defend his title at the Rogers Cup in Montreal. Nadal's publicist, Benito Perez-Barbadillo, said yesterday the six-time Grand Slam title winner is in Barcelona for tests on his sore knees. Perez-Barbadillo says Nadal is "slowly recovering from his injury." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Hill savours all-star experience

After being sidelined by post-concussion syndrome, Jay takes nothing for granted

All that was foggy is now clear for Aaron Hill, and he knows not to ever take that for granted.

Last year at this time the Toronto Blue Jays second baseman was at home struggling with post-concussion syndrome, the result of a collision in the outfield with then teammate David Eckstein during a May 29 game at Oakland.

Light exercise left him nauseous and dizzy, a heavy head and headaches made normal day-to-day living impossible.

So the 27-year-old has good reason to relish every part of his first all-star experience this week, including starting and batting eighth for the American League in last night's contest. He's made a point of taking it all in.

"I'm just grateful to be back in a uniform and be successful." Aaron Hill

"It's pretty special," Hill said of his remarkable turnaround. "Don't forget how easily something can be taken away. I keep saying that over and over, but it's the truth. I'm just grateful to be back in a uniform and be successful."

The affable Hill is one of the all-star game's better feel-good stories this year, coming back the way he has after missing four months last season because of his post-concussion issues.

In 89 games, he's batting .292 with 20 home runs and 60 RBIs, the latter two both team highs, and he's back to playing Gold Glove calibre defence. Throw in his tenacity and quiet leadership, and there's a good case to be made for Hill as the Blue Jays' MVP so far.

"I'm thrilled for him," said teammate Roy Halladay.

"There were questions for himself whether or not he'd be back and how good he could be. To be able to come back and have a season like this is incredible."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DILIP VISHWANAT/GETTY IMAGES

Aaron Hill of the Toronto Blue Jays takes part in the all-star game Red Carpet Parade yesterday in St. Louis.

MORRY GASH-POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Blue Jay Roy Halladay pitches during the all-star game last night in St. Louis.

Jays won't allow pre-trade talks with Halladay

CONTRACT EXTENSION Any team interested in Roy Halladay will have to wait until after it strikes a deal with the Toronto Blue Jays to discuss a contract extension with the ace right-hander.

An anonymous source confirmed yesterday no negotiating window will be granted to Halladay's suitors prior to the completion of any trade, as sometimes happens to help facilitate a swap.

The New York Mets, for instance, received a 72-hour window to work out an extension with Johan Santana before sending a package of four prospects to the Minnesota Twins for the left-hander. Santana ended up reaching a $137.5-million US, six-year agreement that allowed the trade to go-ahead.

But a key difference is that Santana was heading into the final season of his old contract when that trade was made. Halladay still has a season and a half remaining on his deal, providing teams with ample opportunity to work out a longer-term commitment.

"If they want to extend him that is enough time to talk to him," said the source.

Both the Blue Jays and Halladay feel the chances of a trade are about "the flip of a coin," as the 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner put it on Monday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woods plots how to win another jug

BRITISH OPEN The sea breeze in his face was not nearly as important to Tiger Woods as finding the best route around three pot bunkers on the 10th hole at Turnberry.

Tiger Woods

He aimed his tee shot to the right, on the high side of two bunkers, then pulled his three-wood just enough that the ball bounded along the links until it stopped rolling just three yards short of the sand.

This was OK.

"That's the whole idea," Woods said. "Some of these holes sucker you into trying to take it over the bunkers."

A bold tee shot would leave a shorter approach into the green, perhaps a greater chance at birdie.

"But can you do that over four days?" Woods replied.

He doesn't appear willing to take that chance.

Woods has captured the British Open three times on two links courses. He won his first claret jug at St. Andrews in 2000, a victory as much famous for his career Grand Slam as his four rounds without once playing out of the bunker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sports in brief

TOUR DE FRANCE Mark Cavendish won the 10th stage of the Tour de France yesterday, narrowly beating Thor Hushovd of the Canadian-owned Cervelo team in a sprint finish on a flat stage.

SOCCER Canadian midfielder Dwayne De Rosario is skipping the MLS all-star game to help Toronto FC in its CONCACAF Champions League game against the Puerto Rico Islanders. Both games are July 29.

NHL The Chicago Blackhawks ousted general manager Dale Tallon yesterday. Tallon has been replaced by assistant GM Stan Bowman, the son of legendary NHL coach Scotty Bowman.

NFL The Kansas City Chiefs have signed quarterback Matt Cassel to a multi-year deal. Cassel, 27, was obtained from New England during the off-season along with linebacker Mike Vrabel for Kansas City's second-round pick in 2010.

BASEBALL Pedro Martinez appears to be close to joining the Philadelphia Phillies. Multiple media outlets are reporting the three-time Cy Young Award winner has agreed to a contract that will be announced today.

CRICKET The World Cup's organizing committee yesterday distributed 14 matches originally allocated to Pakistan to the other three co-hosts: India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

I love it in the morning
pizzanova.com/confessions
NUTHIN' BUT NOVA

Marcum on the mound
Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Shaun Marcum will make a rehab start for the double-A New Hampshire Fisher Cats tomorrow. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Few spots left for free-agent goalies

TheHockeyNews
Brian Costello
thehockeynews.com

Did Martin Biron price himself out of a job in the NHL? Looks like it.

It's two weeks into the free-agent season and virtually every team has filled its starter and backup jobs for 2009-10.

So Biron may have to look for a job in Europe or the Kontinental League. Same with the other NHL proven UFA goalies: Manny Fernandez, Manny Legace, Martin Gerber, Brent Johnson, Joey MacDonald, Curtis Sanford, Wade Dubielewicz and Kevin Weekes. That's nine looking-for-work stoppers and a shrunken market.

From my point of view, here are the only openings remaining and a possible outcome. Good health is presumed at this point.

Calgary might want an experienced backup to spell an overworked Miikka Kiprusoff, but Curtis McElhinney makes the $500,000 minimum and the Flames are up against the cap. Maybe one of those nine UFAs gets desperate and settles for $700,000 or $800,000.

The Los Angeles Kings maintain they're not looking to sign a goalie and will open the season with Jonathan Quick and Erik Ersberg on the roster. Top prospect Jonathan Bernier will push for a job as well. A slow start may prompt the team to consider signing a veteran.

New Jersey is high on prospect Jeff Frazee to eventually spell the aging Martin Brodeur, but 50 games in the American League would be better for the 22-year-old than 15 in the NHL. There's an opening for a backup here if they're not happy with the recently signed Yann Denis.

There's another opening for a backup behind Marc-Andre Fleury in Pittsburgh, but his backup John Curry is 25 and it's now or never time for him.

Evgeni Nabokov plays a lot in San Jose and the Sharks have a stable of goaltending prospects on the farm team. They'll probably stick with 23-year-old Thomas Greiss as the 10-15 game backup.

So just a few backup openings for nine available NHL goalies.

And Biron looks to be the only one who wouldn't be satisfied with fewer than 40 games. Start looking east of the Atlantic, Marty.

The Hockey News thn.com

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Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass

In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

Workology

SFU now in the NCAA

The National Collegiate Athletic Association approved Simon Fraser University's application to join the association, making the university the first non-US member of NCAA. Following a two-year "candidacy" period, during which SFU can continue to competed in both the CIS and NCAA, all of the university's varsity teams will compete in the NCAA Division II level starting in the 2011-12 season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

'Truly a job that lives and breathes'

Backstage Pass

MAT LECOMPTE
for Metro Canada

It's probably one of the most vivid and dynamic theatres around, but rarely considered when discussing such venues. The playhouse in question is the theatre of the mind.

Likely, this master of imagery gets ignored because there are too many mediums working against it. Television and film provide the images we see, and even the written word is often overly descriptive. Jim Carr, professor at York University and Seneca College, says there is, however, one medium that truly caters to this unique theatre since its invention: The radio.

"Radio directly plays to the theatre of the mind," says the program co-ordinator of the joint broadcast radio program. "In 20 seconds of sound I can put you in a park in Paris and your image will be different from everyone else's."

He says radio lets people drum up images from their past and utilize them to understand what they're hearing in their own personal way.

"A good radio producer has done their job if they can do that for you," he told Metro.

Producers are responsible for bringing the life, ideas and imagery to radio programs each and every day. Along with the on-air personalities, they orchestrate the soundtrack for millions of listeners.

Radio producers are responsible for bringing the life, ideas and imagery to radio programs.

Ryan Fabro, of Toronto's sports radio station The Fan 590, says a radio producer is the "middleman that makes the whole show work."

Fabro, the producer of Fan shows The Director's Chair and The Game Plan, says it's his job to make sure the research is done, the guests are lined up and the right callers are selected. He also says it's fun to work on-the-fly. If a good idea or funny line pops into his head, he can feed it to the host(s) to take the show in an interesting new direction.

"Altogether, it's a really fun, satisfying way to work."

The on-the-fly aspect is appealing to Fabro because it gives him the opportunity to think on his feet and be ready for any situation, at any time.

Live radio, specifically live sports radio, requires the right preparation to handle any newsworthy developments that occur.

If a player is traded, it's the producers' job to get on the phone and get a comment from the player or organization. If it's happening in real-time, it needs to be reflected on the air, says Fabro. That means he needs to know who to call, and when.

"You're always trying to get your Rolodex bigger," he says. "If you're not up-to-date, you're useless at your job."

"As the day moves on, everything changes," says Carr. "A day is 24 hours and live radio must be consistently evolving and adapting to bring people what they need to hear. It's truly a job that lives and breathes."

You can catch The Director's Chair on the Fan 590 Monday to Friday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., and The Game Plan from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the same days.

Fabro also co-hosts The Fantasy Show, airing Sundays at 6 p.m.

For more of the Backstage Pass exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: **metronews.ca/work**

Many employers taking chance to rebrand

MARKETING As the nation works toward recovering from one of the steepest downturns in U.S. history, employers are preparing now for when the economy rebounds, according to a recent CareerBuilder survey. Seventy-two per cent of employers who have employment brands say they are taking measures to strengthen those employment brands today, so they are competitively positioned for an upturn down the road.

Employers are working to remedy the fallout of a gruelling economy. In addition to layoffs, the survey found 42 per cent of employers have cut certain benefits or perks at their organizations in 2009. Bonuses and medical coverage topped are the most affected.

As companies struggle with shrinking departments and tighter budgets, a greater emphasis is being placed on internal and external communications to improve employment brands. Thirty-seven per cent of employers with employment brands are communicating more frequently with employees about company successes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Clarification

Bonnie Aprile teaches housekeeping, household management and wardrobe maintenance at the Charles MacPherson Academy for Butlers and Household Managers. Incorrect information appeared yesterday. Metro regrets the error.

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More to court than just facts

WorkplaceLaw

"One should always play fairly when one has the winning cards." - OSCAR WILDE

Most lawyers will tell you that the outcome of your case is based on the facts, the prevailing law, the relative abilities of the lawyers involved and a bit of luck. In straightforward employment law cases, strategy is often overlooked. It ought not to be.

Generally, employers are in no hurry to move cases along quickly. They would much prefer to wait and let the employee's legal costs accumulate and her frustrations grow. In typical cases, claims can meander through the court system for years, with inherent pretrial delays, mandatory mediations and few, if any, deadlines.

Here are some tips from the workplace trenches:

Address preliminary issues intelligently: The strategic advantage that specialized counsel offers is to argue a lawsuit in ways that take the opposing lawyer, and his client, away from their comfort zone. In a case that I recently argued, I brought a preliminary motion to compel the judge to grant summary judgment, which allowed my client to obtain damages long before she even suffered them. Although the defendant argued that the case couldn't be heard, we successfully responded to the inference that a full trial was required by emphasizing the facts that were straightforward and downplaying those that were not.

Don't make allegations that cannot be supported: Most employment lawsuits are riddled with hyperbole. Some lawyers believe that flashy allegations of bad faith, the intentional infliction of mental distress and punitive damages add to the value of their clients' claims. In my experience, the opposite is usually true. Not only does the case take longer to settle, it inevitably will cost you more to do so.

Proceed as a group: It becomes difficult for an employer to ignore your claim when it is shared. Even two employees proceeding together will garner greater attention from your ex-employer and their lawyer.

Choose a lawyer carefully: There are no rules that limit lawyers without much experience in employment law from professing that they practise it on their websites and in the media — and unfortunately they do. The reality is that there are few lawyers who exclusively practise employment law. Employment law is specialized. Inquire what percentage of the lawyer's time is spent solely on employment law matters — and don't pay for his or her education.

FOR THE FULL ARTICLE VISIT METRONEWS.CA/WORKPLACELAW

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Japan's postal service turns to EV
Japan's postal service will deploy 40 electric vehicles this year, according to the Green Car Congress. Japan Post Service has signed five-year leases for 20 units each of the Mitsubishi i-MiEV and the Subaru Plug-In Stella. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Green outlook

More than 27 per cent of Canadians today would buy an environmentally-friendly car over a dream car, compared to 23 per cent of Americans, a new survey by global market research firm Synovate has found. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Return of diesel Jetta

VW gets down to heart of the matter — its engine

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

Volkswagen's 2009 Jetta TDI sedan doesn't set any new standards as far as exterior design is concerned; it's what's lurking under the hood that really matters.

The state-of-the-art clean diesel technology available in the Jetta will be THE key selling feature of the new model, which is helping VW achieve sales increases in Canada while most manufacturers have been losing market share.

Volkswagen has a long history with diesels and the Jetta TDI has been one of its sales leaders over the years. In fact, in 2006 about half of all Jettas sold in Canada had the old 1.9-litre TDI turbo diesel engine. However, changing emissions regulations rendered that engine obsolete and in 2007, VW didn't offer any diesel models.

2009 VW Jetta TDI

Type: Two door mid-size sedan
Price: $24,275-$29,775
Engine: 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder diesel (140 hp 235 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Smoother and quieter than previous diesel Jettas
- Impressive fuel economy

After an absence of more than a year, Volkswagen is back with a diesel engine in its 2009 Jetta sedan and wagon. Inside, Jetta TDI is comfortable and functional, but not as up-to-date styling-wise as many in the mid-size market.

The new diesel engine not only meets the tougher emissions regulations throughout all of North America, but it also is smoother, quieter, more powerful and more fuel-efficient than the previous diesel.

Gone are the days of the black smoke billowing out of the tailpipe as you drive merrily on your way, smugly telling the world that you're getting great fuel economy with your diesel, while at the same time adding piles of CO_2 to the atmosphere.

Gone too is the "clatter" previously associated with diesel engines — at speed up you can barely hear the engine sound although it is audible at start up.

A plus with the new 2.0-litre engine is the extra power that comes without sacrificing fuel economy. The new engine produces 140 hp and 235 lb/ft of torque, compared with 100 hp and 177 lb/ft with the previous model. That added grunt comes in handy when accelerating onto the highway or in passing mode.

As for fuel economy, the numbers are impressive — 6.8L/100 km city and 4.9L/100 km highway with the six-speed DSG automatic transmission. A six-speed manual gets slightly better fuel economy still.

While the Jetta is clearly a leader on the technological side, styling-wise it's a fairly bland offering. Unlike the eye-catching look of its Passat CC sibling, the Jetta TDI blends in with the crowd. Similarly, the interior is a functional yet dull Plain Jane gray on gray colour. However, all knobs and gauges are easy to use and within reach, while the seats are comfortable.

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Leno at Jag unveiling
Chat show host and car enthusiast Jay Leno recently hosted the reveal of the new Jaguar XJ, a luxury saloon. METRO WORLD NEWS

Audi TTS a fine work of art

If God is in the details, this is one holy drop-top

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

2009 Audi TTS Roadster

Type: Sports car
Price: from $61,900
Engine: Turbocharged 2.0L DOHC four-cylinder
Power: 265 hp @ 6,000 rpm; 258 lb-ft of torque @ 2,500 rpm

Highlights

- Effortless speed
- Exquisite looks

For 2009, Audi is offering a considerably hotter version of its 2.0L TSFI direct-injection turbo-four powered TT dubbed the TTS. Available in both coupe ($57,600) and Roadster ($61,900), horsepower count jumps from 200 to 265. and torque sees an increase of 51 lb.-ft. to 258 at 2500 r.p.m.

All TTS are equipped with upgraded quattro all-wheel-drive, a six-speed S-Tronic twin-clutch manumatic transmission and S-specific tuned adaptive magnetic ride suspension. Visually, you can spot a TTS by its 10mm lowered ride height, unique 18" wheels, chrome-look mesh grill, bi-xenon headlights, dual twin tail pipes, aluminum-look mirrors and black brake calipers.

There's no question this car is a stunner, and its beauty is more than skin deep. The 2009 TTS Roadster beat out the refreshed Mercedes-Benz SLK and Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder to capture Best New Convertible category at the 2008 TestFest.

But is it a real sports car? My wife and I took our red specimen on a two day tour of northwest Ontario to find out.

With maximum torque arriving at 2500 rpm, the TTS can get caught flat-footed in the lower rev range, but once the turbo spools up this red rocket truly flies. The six-speed S-Tronic twin-clutch box is a delight. It shifts smoothly on its own, but the real fun is in using the paddle shifters to flick through the gears, hearing the rev matching on downshifts, and the cute little woofs on upshifts.

Speed is deceptively effortless in the TTS. On a few occasions, after blowing by some slower traffic, Ms. Navigator was quick to alert me to the fact we were well into impoundment territory by a quick left jab to the right shoulder. Thanks dear.

In this part of Ontario, curves in the grid of arrow straight country roads are about as scarce as two-headed sheep, so most of the accelerative forces we experienced were linear, not lateral.

Which suits the TTS to a "T". Despite its 10-mm lowered ride height and 245/40R18 performance tires, Audi's style icon is more of a swift and comfortable two-seat tourer than a true sports car. Yes, it goes, steers and grips like crazy, but it's strangely aloof and uninvolving. It's also let down by somewhat uncommunicative steering that is over-assisted at lower speeds.

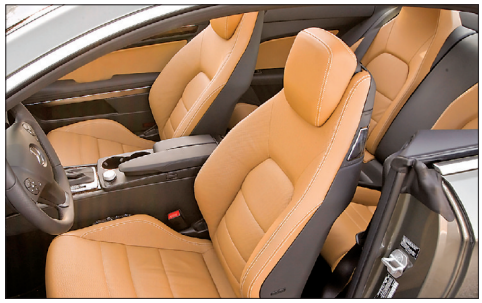
Compared to the benchmark Porsche Boxster (starting at $58,400), it's not quite there. The steering lacks the Porsche's wonderfully tactile feel, and the chassis, while undeniably capable, doesn't communicate or respond like the mid-engined Boxster.

Get back to the touring side of the equation, and the TTS excels. The standard adaptive magnetic ride sports suspension serves up a pleasant and controlled ride, the bolstered sport seats proved comfy over the long haul, and the $1350 Bose audio upgrade with XM sounded fab. Add in the $1500 Enhanced Leather Package (fine nappa seats, leather cowl, console and door pulls), and every aspect of this exquisite cabin is a visual and tactile delight. If God is in the details, this is one holy drop-top.

And as an object of rolling fine art, the Audi TTS Roadster is unparalleled.

View from the infinitely adjustable seat

AutoPilot
Michael Goetz
metronews.ca/autopilot



The Mercedes-Benz E Class Coupe, left, and its seats get columnist Michael Goetz thinking about the trappings of luxurious technology.

I recently tried out the new Mercedes-Benz E Class Coupe and liked it. My butt was particularly impressed.

That is one fine seat.

It features a unique sculpted shape, beautiful leather, lovely cross stitching, and 10-way power adjustments for positioning — plus four other power adjustments to make you even more comfortable.

Those extra four dials located on the inboard side of the front seats can inflate and deflate six different bladders; there's one set for the side bolsters in the seat cushion, another set for the side bolsters in the lower seat back, and two individual ones for lumbar.

Crank up all the bolsters and the seat hugs your backside like a body suit.

The lumbar feature is equally powerful; at one point it may have adjusted my prostate.

Of course, like a lot of luxury car seats, the seats also offer heating and cooling functions. (One of my favourite things to do with unsuspecting passengers in warm weather, is secretly turn their seats to low heat and see if they're the type that figures it out right away, or the type that just keeps squirming.)

We've obviously come a long way, from the bench seats of yore.

I'm not suggesting we go back to those vinyl wonders, but one wonders if the most comfortable, adjustable chair you get to sit in any given day should be the one in the 4,000-pound device that uses premium unleaded? Aren't we trying to get people out of the car a little bit? And we wonder why people keep choosing the drive-thru at Tim Horton's, even when it takes longer than the walk-in option.

The other thing that gets me about these infinitely adjustable seats, is that you spend an inordinate time fiddling with the adjustments. With so many settings, you feel that seating utopia is suddenly possible, so you adjust and adjust and adjust … but you never get to that place of backside enlightenment… it's just a mirage in the desert.

And when you think you're JUST THERE, you make one small adjustment to the recline angle, which begets one more small adjustment to the seat cushion tilt, which begets one more small adjustment in the lumbar, which suddenly makes everything ALL WRONG, which begets you to gnaw the steering wheel.

This exercise reminds me of what you go through when a waiter or waitress tops up your coffee cup. You now have to figure out what precise increments of sugar and cream to add. With no reference point any more it's all a guessing game — one you usually lose.

But don't let my seat issues detract from your enjoyment of the continuing evolution of the automotive seat. Please, adjust away!

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Scrappage programs aid sales

EUROPE Scrappage incentive programs in Western Europe have led to 500,000 additional passenger vehicles sold in the region from January through May 2009, according to recent analysis by R. L. Polk & Co.

While year-over-year registrations in Western Europe fell 12.6 per cent (800,000 vehicles), the loss was mitigated by the effect of scrappage programs, which have been implemented in Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Without the scrappage incentives, Western European passenger vehicle demand would have fallen by more than 20 per cent, or 1.3 million units, in the first five months of 2009.

European scrappage programs will continue to boost new vehicle sales throughout the remainder of the year.

FROM CARGUIDE

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#Limited time lease offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Lease examples based on new 2009 Civic DX, model FA1529EX / 2009 Accord Sedan LX, model CP2539E / 2009 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3839E available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £1.9% / 2.9% / 2.9% lease APR for 48 / 48 / 48 months. Monthly payment is $178 / $298 / $298 with $2,787.12 / $3,437.75 / $4,344.64 down payment which includes $500 / $1,000 / $1,000 Lease Cash Allowance or equivalent trade. $1,395 / $1,550 / $1,590 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 / $0 / $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Lease Cash Allowance includes taxes. Total lease obligation is $12,804.17 / $20,048.18 / $21,072.96. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 / 96,000 / 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2009 Civic DX Sedan, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $16,990 plus $1,395 freight and PDI, financed at 0.9% APR equals $313.48 per month for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $423.65 for a total obligation of $18,808.65. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. MSRP of Civic EX-L Sedan, model CP2589JN / CR-V EX-L, model RE4879JN shown is $23,680 / $30,090 / $35,190 plus $1,395 / $1,550 / $1,590 freight and PDI. ¥July Bonus Dollars offers will vary from model to model. $500 July Bonus Dollars available on new 4-cylinder Accord models; $1,000 July Bonus Dollars available on new V6 Accord models; $1,500 July Bonus Dollars available on all new CR-V models. $500 / $1,000 / $1,500 July Bonus Dollars offers applies only to retail customer purchase, lease or finance agreements for select new 2009 Civic, Accord, CR-V models concluded, respectively, between July 1st, 2009 and July 31st, 2009. July Bonus Dollars offer includes GST, PST where applicable. Valid only on purchase, lease or finance agreements concluded at participating Honda retailers. #/£/¥ Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda dealers from July 1st, 2009 through July 31st, 2009. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. *As reported by Canadian manufacturers for calendar year 2008.

Vancouver OK's EV charging regulations
Vancouver's city council has unanimously approved new regulations that will require electric vehicle charging stations in new condominium and apartment buildings, according to the Green Car Congress. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Life with the minivan

Kim Stockwood drives a model similar to this 2009 Toyota Sienna.

Her voice comes across the radio to thousands of Torontonians driving to work each morning. But for the Juno-nominated singer-songwriter Kim Stockwood, who joined the 97.3 EZ Rock team a year ago, co-hosting the 5:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. show, driving has entered a new era: Chauffeuring her children around.

The onetime member of Canadian band Shaye, recently traded in her sporty red golf for something she never thought she'd drive — a van. "My husband thought we should get a minivan," says the 43-year-old mother of two boys, aged six and four. "I wasn't sure I wanted to do that." But last year, the St. John's-native gave in. "When your husband's 6'4" and you have two boys who are becoming as tall as he is, my hot little Golf had to go," she explains.

It was replaced with a 2008 silver Toyota Sienna, which Stockwood admits is far more conducive to family life. "This car is so awesome. There are sliding doors. I press a button and the kids just jump in and out," she enthuses. Another feature she's come to love is the DVD player. "We try to limit the use of it, but I've got to say, when we have long drives, and we have kids in the car, that is a life saver!"

Instead of hearing the constant refrain "are we there yet?," Stockwood pops in a DVD, the kids plug in headphones and the couple can enjoy uninterrupted conversation as the kids are transfixed by a movie.

Despite having adjusted to life behind the wheel of a family van, Stockwood still holds onto the dream of one day owning a sporty car again, preferably a convertible Mini.

"It's not going to happen for the next few years," she concedes. "There's just no way that I could fit me plus the three men in my life in it."

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has at several magazines, including Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

Kim Stockwood is a Juno-nominated singer-songwriter and a radio show host with Toronto's 97.3 EZ Rock.

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Mazdaspeed3 pricing announced

NEW MODEL In Canadian dealerships this month, the second-generation Mazdaspeed3, one of the fastest front-wheel drive cars available, has been priced at $32,995.

The 2010 Mazdaspeed3 is born from the expressive and dynamic design of the Mazda3 Sport hatchback but is differentiated by its Mazdaspeed exclusive front and rear bumpers, front fenders, scooped hood, rear spoiler, interior trim and fabric.

The model will be offered in Velocity Red, Crystal White Pearl, Celestial Blue Mica and Black Mica paint colours.

It features a series of improvements including its engine — the acclaimed MZR 2.3L DISI Turbo producing 263 hp at 5,500 rpm and 280 ft/lb of torque at 3,000 rpm, and its specially-designed six-speed manual transmission.

FROM CARGUIDE

Watching what to eat on the road

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

Concerned about drowsiness at the wheel? As the road trip season is upon us, some planning for meals and beverages can help keep your focus and attention on high-alert. Justin Pritchard asks Dr. Jennifer Strong, a member of the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors, for the scoop on what not to eat when planning an hours-long road trip.

Q Driving requires one to be alert and energetic — not tired or drowsy. If you're planning a nine-hour drive in a single day, are there certain foods to avoid eating?

A Foods to avoid would be anything that is hard to digest, or anything high in simple sugars. This includes greasy, fatty meals, which can leave you feeling in need of a nap afterwards.

High sugar foods like candy, chocolate and slushies are good for an immediate sugar rush, but you'll have a 'sugar crash' after, and feel even more tired than before.

Tryptophan is found in most meat and dairy products. It's an amino acid known to make you feel a little drowsy if consumed in large quantities — so avoid gobbling down multiple double-cheeseburgers on the go.

Q Are there certain foods that can promote alertness and focus on a long trip?

A Nothing substitutes for a good night's rest the evening before. Then, the goal on the road should be to maintain a normal blood sugar level. Foods that have adequate amounts of complex carbohydrates and natural sugars are ideal.

These include nuts and dried fruit, trail-mix, granola, fresh fruit, whole grain cereals for munching, low fat string cheese, and veggie slices.

Q What about the timing of a meal before or during a drive?

A You'll be in a seated, sedentary position, so not many calories will be exerted. Therefore, small snacks every three hours or so are ideal to maintain normal blood-sugar levels.

Plan ahead and pack your food in a cooler, as opposed to being stuck with fast food. Planning meals and snacks ahead of time allows people to more easily make healthy choices. Plus, your snacks are available to you at all times without waiting.

Lastly, don't hold back on the fluids. It may be tempting to drink less on the road to reduce bathroom stops, but it's important to be hydrated in order to remain alert and avoid headaches.

Hunger pains can often be "thirst pains" — so before you reach for the snack, take a drink of water and wait a few minutes to see if that satisfies you.

If you planning to do a long road-trip this summer, it might be wise to think about what you will eat before and during the trip.

Charter flight offerings
Travelocity.ca has added charter flights to its booking options. To search for and book charter flights, just click on the "Charter Flights" link on the site's "Flights" tab. The site will also continue to offer charter flights as part of pre-packaged vacationd. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

No more rock-climbing?

A controversial Australian government proposal could stop people from climbing the famed Uluru — formerly known as Ayers Rock — in deference to the wishes of local Aborigine people, for whom the 348-metre rock is sacred. Uluru, known for its shifting red-ochre colours, is a top tourist draw: each year, it gets 350,000 visitors, half of them from overseas, and is climbed by more than 100,000 visitors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

5 favourite high-fashion hotels

Clothing designers put their stamp on accommodations

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Last week, we profiled five hostels around the world that are known for bringing design savvy into the realm of low-cost accommodation.

Now, we're tossing the budget out of the window, and peering into the world of fashion designers who have translated their prowess with clothing and housewares into stylish accommodation.

HOTEL MISSONI

Above and right, interiors at Edinburgh's Hotel Missoni, the first hotel the fashion brand has collaborated on.

Hotel Missoni, Edinburgh

The designer: Rosita Missoni

The concept: According to Rosita Missoni, the three vital elements at this hotel are the espresso machine, the Missoni bathrobes and toiletries and a large Corian seat in the walk-in rain showers.

The hotel is stylish and chic, but who knows who's going to stay there, apart from British celebrities during Edinburgh Festival or Film Festivals in August, or extravagant shopaholics on a weekend break — Scotland is not particularly known for its fashion scene.

The style: the fashion house is known for its use of coloured prints — stripes and zig-zags and in bright colours — in its collections as well as its homeware, so expect them to run through the hotel too. Rooms are punctuated with walls of mustard, turquoise or fuchsia.

The site: hotelmissoni.com

Hotel du Petit Moulin, Paris

The designer: Christian Lacroix

The concept: Sadly, French designer Christian Lacroix's fashion house went into administration earlier this year, but you can still celebrate his trademark flamboyant style at this bijou hotel in the heart of Paris. The theatrical designer transformed this pretty former 17th century bakery with a flourish of bows, acres of brightly-coloured fabrics, and his own personal collages and sketches, proving that he did actually get his hands dirty with this customization job.

The style: 18th century-inspired, with exotic murals, gilt mirrors, sumptuous soft furniture, luxurious furniture in deep jewel colours.

The site:.paris-hotel-petit moulin.com

The Pelican, Miami

The designer: Diesel

The concept: Italian high street jeans brand Diesel has made its mark on Miami's lively Ocean Drive with its first hotel venture, housed in the historic Art Deco Pelican Hotel.

In true Diesel style, the hotel is casual and playful, and all 30 rooms are individually-customized by a Swedish interior designer, including a penthouse with rooftop hot tub, 50-inch flatscreen TV, huge round bed and giant fish-tank.

The café terrace is a favourite for breakfast and people-watching with young, hip, fashion, music and media types.

Read more on page 26 »

More fashionable options

Alberta Ferretti at Carducci 76, Rimini, Italy
• A stylish 38-room hotel in a 1920 villa overlooking the beach in the village of Cattolica, near Rimini. The Italian designer puts her trademark delicate touch to an calm neutral-toned interior; carducci76.it.

Philip Treacy at The G Galway, Ireland
• As you'd expect from a hotel designed by a milliner best known for his extravagant designs, there's an emphasis on opulence and glamour at this five-star Irish boutique hotel; theghotel.ie.

Armani at Hotel Armani, Dubai
• Armani is set to open two hotels featuring the Italian brand's stylish Armani/Casa homeware. The hotel in Milan is scheduled to open this year, and next year Armani is set to open the doors to the 160-room Armani Hotel Dubai. The hotel is set over several floors of the Burj Dubai development, which will be the world's tallest residential tower in the world when complete;armanihotels.com.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Thomas Cook Financial Services
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NFB takes to the skies

The National Film Board of Canada's collection is now available to airlines around the world. Canada's public film producer and distributor has signed an airline distribution agreement with Skeye Inflight Entertainment to offer its catalogue to airlines worldwide, operating outside of Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

New 7 Wonders of Nature candidate list getting smaller

NATURE'S GIFTS The list of finalists for the new 7 Wonders of Nature campaign will be narrowed to 28 on July 21 in Zurich, where the effort is based.

Once the final 28 are announced, the public will be able to vote via the web, text message or phone on the final seven. The seven winners will be announced in 2011.

The list of 77 nominees from which the 28 will be chosen includes the Amazon, the Galapagos, Mount Kilimanjaro, Ireland's Cliffs of Moher, Canada's Bay of Fundy and Australia's Uluru (Ayer's Rock). The only site in the continental U.S. is the Grand Canyon. Puerto Rico's El Yunque rainforest is on the list also.

Swiss-Canadian adventurer Bernard Weber, who started the Wonders campaign, said his aim is to "create respect and enthusiasm … for the beauty of our planet."

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Flights are from Toronto via Air Transat. Prices shown are per person, double occupancy, lead room category. Taxes extra noted above. Space & prices subject to availability and change without notice. For full descriptions refer to the 2009/2010 Italy, Spain & Greece brochure. Transat Holidays is a division of Transat Tours Canada Inc., and is registered as a travel wholesaler in Ontario (Reg. no 50009486) with offices at 191 The West Mall, Suite 800, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K8. tico.ca

When it comes to travel, think outside the book

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Self-mummified monks; a house built of paper; a museum filled with the genitals of every known mammal. The world is full of breathtaking places nobody has ever heard of.

"Dylan and I both travel often, and anytime we do, we're always on the lookout for the sorts of weird places that are left out of traditional guidebooks and are ignored by the average tourist," says science journalist Joshua Foer, 26, speaking of himself and his friend Dylan Thuras, also 26.

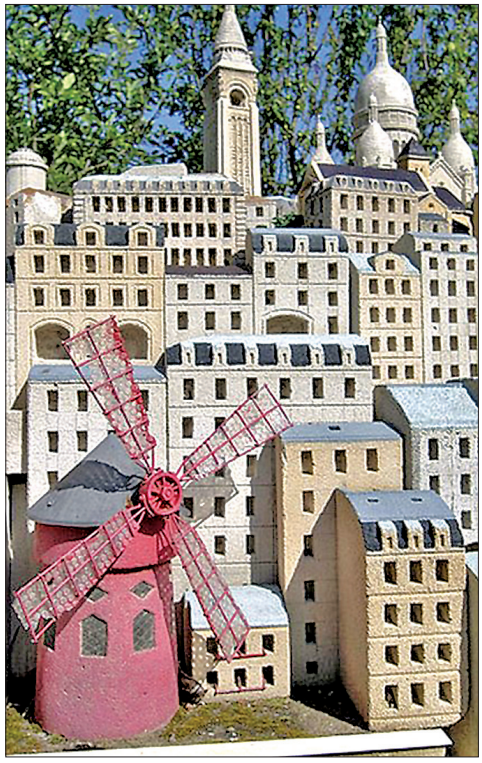
So they launched atlas obscura.com, which features such destinations.

"If you live in Massachusetts, you might know that there's an incredible 70-year-old house built entirely out of paper in the town of Rockport. But if you're visiting Massachusetts for the first time, how are you going to find out about it?" adds Thuras, a filmmaker who recently spent a year in Budapest.

"Most of the places in the Atlas are submitted by users who live nearby."

At Spain's Gomera Island, residents use a "whistling language." Vocabulary: 4,000-plus words. The Czech Kostnice Ossuary Beinhaus is a church decked out with human bones.

For culinary pleasures, try Austria's Starkenber Beer Myth Resort, which offers the world's only beer swimming pools, or Paris restaurant Dans le Noir? where diners eat in total darkness, served by visually impaired waiters.



In Vaissac, France, a miniature model of the City of Lights built out of garbage.

Here are Joshua Foer and Dylan Thuras' top destinations, which you can see at atlasobscura.com:

- The Gates of Hell, Derweze, Turkmenistan: A giant hole in the Karakum Desert that's been burning for four decades.
- The Paper House, Rockport, Maine: A 70-year-old structure built entirely out of paper.
- The Icleand Phallological Museum, Husavik, Iceland: A museum filled with the genitals of every known mammal in Iceland.
- Don Justo's Self-Built Cathedral, Mejorada del Campo, Spain: A huge cathedral single-handedly built by an eccentric exmonk.
- Musee Mecanique, San Francisco, CA: An incredible collection of automatons and mechanical orchestras.
- Bochnia Salt Mine, Bochnia, Poland: Poland's oldest salt mine has nearly everything one needs to live underground forever.
- Mini-Paris, Vaissac, France: A miniature model of the City of Lights built out of garbage.
- Siriraj Medical Museum, Bangkok: An incredible anatomical museum
- Eisinga Planetarium, Franeker, Netherlands: The world's oldest functioning planetarium.

Udaipur named world's best city by Travel + Leisure readers

INDIA The annual list of the World's Best Cities as chosen by readers of Travel + Leisure magazine was topped by a city that many North Americans may not be familiar with: Udaipur, India.

Last year, the No. 1 city on the survey was Bangkok. Asked if she was surprised by the result, Travel + Leisure editor-in-chief Nancy Novogrod said: "I was, but I'm kind of intrigued. It's a city I love. It's in Rajasthan, it's an ancient city around a lake and it has a beautiful palace with some great hotels and superb resorts," including the Taj Lake Palace and the Oberoi Udaivilas.

Novogrod also spoke highly of the city's art collections and shopping opportunities for fabrics, antiques and handmade clothing. Novogrod added that among her magazine's readers, she has noticed a "huge migration and interest away from the classic European capitals and classic resorts to destinations that offer a very particular sense of place. . . . The world has gotten smaller in some ways and the traditional places have gotten less interesting and more familiar."

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Capital sights in Vilnius

Lithuanian city is in the cultural spotlight this year

JOHAN ÖBERG
Metro World News

The capital of Lithuania and Europe's oldest baroque old town, Vilnius, is European Capital of Culture 2009.

This city already had a vibrant arts scene, and throughout this year it's even more alive with exciting events from art exhibitions and music festivals to theatre and literature festivals. This stunning town will charm you with its cobbled alleyways, cosy bars and intriguing combination of beautifully-preserved churches and the world's only statue of psychedelic musician Frank Zappa. While you're there, here are a few sights and experiences you shouldn't miss:

Gediminas Castle: A perfect beginning for your visit to Vilnius is braving the walk up to Gediminas Castle to get a view of the city. You will see the old town, the river Neris and the 328-metre-tall TV tower.

Cathedral Square: On weekends the square is filled with newlyweds who are photographed before heading off to their receptions the city's many limousines. Vilnius has more limos than any other European capital.

Pigs' ears: Stroll down Pilies gatvė and have a rest at one of the many cafés and pubs, where a plate of smoked pig ears is a mandatory snack.

Old Town: The heart of the Old Town offers approximately one square kilometre of UNESCO World Heritage beauty, with lovely baroque buildings and surprises on every street corner.

Uzupis: Take a trip to the artsy, self-proclaimed "independent republic," Uzupis, on the other side of the little Vilnia River. Home to artists and musicians, it is Vilnius' answer to Montmartre in Paris and Christiania in Copenhagen.

TV tower: This is one of the few must-sees in new Vilnius — it is where the final stand took place during Lithuania's fight for independence in 1991. For the reckless visitor, there's an opportunity to take on Europe's highest bungee jump from a height of 169 metres.

Vilnius beach: Enjoy Vilnius beach, an artificial sandy beach on river Neri's north shore. A visit to the beautiful art park Europas Parkas nearby is also a must; europospar kas.lt.

JOHAN ÖBERG/METRO WORLD NEWS

A view of Gediminas Castle in Vilnius, Lithuania.

More details

- vilnius-tourism.lt
- culturelive.lt/en

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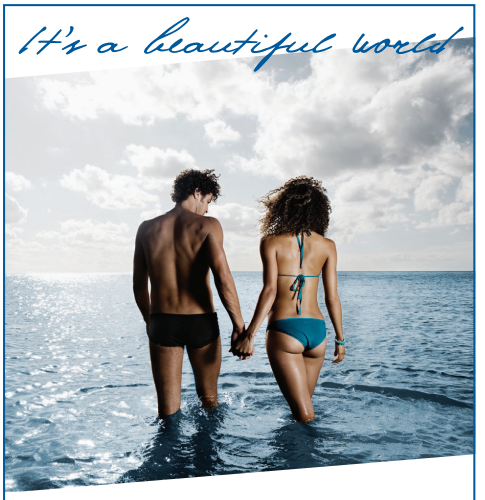

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Manitoba spa moments

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

It's a province better known for outdoor activities and wildlife viewing than spas. But while Manitoba doesn't boast large numbers of spas — when compared with Ontario or B.C., for instance — it does deliver several unique spa experiences. Here are two:

Aboriginal inspiration

It's fitting that the signature treatment at the Riverstone Spa at Inn on the Forks should be an Indigenous Hot Stone Massage. The Forks (where the Assiniboine and Red rivers meet) is a national historic site with a rich history of early aboriginal settlement.

Now granted, a hot stone massage is nothing new, but the one offered by Riverstone is distinctive and special because it was developed in conjunction with — and has the blessing of — elders at the City of Life Thunderbird House, a local aboriginal cultural centre.

The second thing that makes it a cut above is the therapist. Head massage therapist Stephen Meleck brings a passion to the treatment that lends to its authenticity. Meleck has been immersed in the indigenous culture from an early age. "We had pow wows in school," he says. "It's a proud part of Manitoba's culture."

The 90-minute treatment includes "homegrown" ingredients and tools including a Golden Eagle feather (a symbol of strength and power to the Thunderbird community); a double shell from Lake Winnipeg holding the local sage used in a purification ritual; braided sweet grass (a healing motif) and sweet grass candles.

Other experiential enhancements include heated sheets and towels, warmed massage oils and a ceremonial tea made from local cedar trees. In the background, lulling native songs and gentle chanting, add a spiritual feel.

Beyond this indigenous-themed massage, there's a wide range of services including a number of Asian-inspired, wellness-type treatments such as Reiki, Stem Cell Massage and the new Facial Reflexology. Or you might want to try a pedicure in one of the ultimately relaxing zero gravity chairs.

The spa is intimate but with 10 treatment rooms, larger than one would expect to find in a 115-room hotel. And the relaxed, good-energy feel that flows freely throughout could be partly due to the daily sage smudging. Negative energies be gone.

Pocket of luxury

It's a long two-hour-plus drive north of the city along the shores of the mighty Lake Winnipeg to get to Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park — and, in the middle of it all, Hecla Oasis Resort.

The historical property reopened in late 2008 following a $30-million renovation, and now it sits like a cut-and-polished semi-precious stone in this isolated and rugged island park. I've barely checked in when resident naturalist and program director Heather Hinam invites me on a nature walk. There are 75 kilometres of trails on the island and several of them, she says, run right through the property. Along with guided nature walks, other resort activities include cultural tours and geocaching.

Surrounded by wilderness on all sides, the spacious and upscale Hecla Oasis Mineral Spa comes as somewhat of a surprise. For instance, the large and stylish pedicure area with its orange leather banquets feels more NYC than provincial park.

And, in the Unwind Lounge, guests relax on white leather settees, keeping themselves cozy warm with soft grey wool throws. There are 10 good-sized treatment rooms, a full menu of services and adjacent to the spa (and available to all resort guests) a mineral pool water circuit.

After the nature walks, the spa and the soaking in mineral waters, dining on fresh pickerel in the resort's first-rate dining room constitutes another memorable Manitoba moment.

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and editor of traveltowellness.com.

More details

- riverstonespa.ca
- heclaoasis.com
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Budget-friendly Maine

Lobster-rich state won't cost a tail and a claw

Maine is well-known for its lobsters, but it won't cost you a claw and a tail to visit Portland and the state's southern coast.

There are plenty of things to do on the cheap in Maine's largest city and the surrounding area. Tourists can take boat rides off the coast for less than $10 US a head and enjoy miles of white sand beaches for free.

ROBERT F. BUKATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Portland Head Light basks in the early morning sunlight, in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. The lighthouse is located at Fort Williams Park. Admission to the park is free.

Places to go

There's no better way to see Maine's famed rocky coast and islands than from the water, and the best deal is through Casco Bay Lines, cascobaylines.com, a ferry service linking Portland to six islands in Casco Bay. Summer rates for round-trip tickets range from $8.20 to $12.05 a person (children and seniors are half-price).

For that, you'll get to go to the islands and see lobster boats, yachts, oil tankers, seals, sea birds, historic island forts and rocky ledges along the way. If you go to Peaks Island, you can grab lunch, rent a bicycle, visit art galleries and craft shops, rent a kayak or simply take a stroll.

Twenty minutes south of Portland, the oceanside town of Old Orchard Beach, oldorchardbeach maine.com, is a summer playground with a honky-tonk feel that is a popular vacation destination with its food stands, arcades, carnival rides, waterslides and the rumble of Harley-Davidsons.

The major attraction — and it doesn't cost a dime — is the 11-kilometre wide sandy beach where you can laze away the day. A pier that dates back to 1898 juts about 150 metres into the water, home to shops, restaurants and a night club.

The best view in Portland can be found atop the historic Eastland Park Hotel, eastlandparkhotel.com, where the Top of the East lounge offers 360-degree views of the city and surrounding areas.

For the price of a drink, you can sit in comfortable couches or at tables and take in panoramic vistas of Portland Harbor, the city's downtown and the suburbs and countryside to the west. On a clear day, you can see New Hampshire's Mount Washington, the tallest mountain in the Northeast.

Things to see

There's no shortage of lighthouses in the Portland area. Start off with Portland Head Light, portlandheadlight.com, located in Cape Elizabeth's Fort Williams Park a short drive from Portland.

The lighthouse was commissioned by George Washington and is said to be the most photographed place in Maine.

The lighthouse museum charges $2 for adults and $1 for children. Once you're done with the lighthouse, you can hike the park's cliff walk, explore the remains of old forts or skip stones on the rock beach.

Other nearby lighthouses include the Two Lights lighthouses (there are two of them) in Cape Elizabeth, or the Spring Point or Portland Breakwater lighthouses in South Portland.

The Longfellow House, mainehistory.org, is where famed poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow grew up in downtown Portland in the early 19th century. Now owned by the Maine Historical Society at 489 Congress St., it has been preserved as a memorial to Longfellow and his family. Tickets are $8 for adults, $7 for senior citizens and students, and $3 for children.

The Portland Museum of Art, portlandmuseum.org, is Maine's largest art museum with a collection of more than 17,000 objects housed in three buildings. Tickets are $10 for adults, and admission is free on Fridays, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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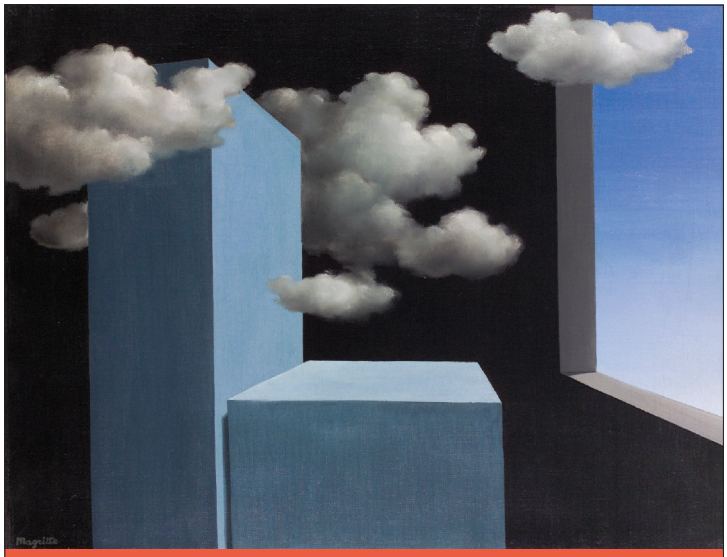

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René Magritte, *The Tempest*, 1931, oil on canvas. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT. Bequest of Kay Sage Tanguy. © René Magritte / SODRAC (2009)

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Miami's Pelican Hotel is designed by Italian denim brand Diesel.

An exterior view of the Palazzo Versace.

Fashionable hoteliers

>> Continued from page 21

The style: kitsch and fun flea market finds, with themes including the trashy-boudoir-style Best Whorehouse, jungle-look Me Tarzan, you Vain and ranch-inspired High Corral, OK Chaparral, each with their suggested soundtrack.
The site: pelicanhotel.com

Hotel Bulgari, Milan

The designer: Bulgari
The concept: This 58 room hotel designed by upscale Italian jewellery brand is one for the wealthy grown ups. The link to the jewellery is the high-end but understated styling, designed to suit the typical Bulgari client, who expects the finest of everything — from their tailored suit, to their Michelin-starred dining, and Wally yacht. They'll be able to broker deals in the glamorous cocktail bar, chill out in the city's only hotel garden and hire a Ferrari if they need some appropriate wheels. Bulgari also has a handsome cream-coloured resort in Bali.
The style: mature, formal and masculine, with black marble floor, contemporary art throughout and sophisticated neutral black, brown and beige tones in the rooms.
The site: bulgarihotels.com

Palazzo Versace

The designer: Versace
The concept: Donatella Versace was the pioneer of the fashion hotel, and launched this glitzy property in 2000. As you'd expect it's a riot of glamour, large, over the top, with giant chandeliers, marble columns, and of course plenty of gold Versace homeware from crystal glasses to plates featuring the trademark Roman head. Right on the beach, with its own marina. Next year Versace opens their Palazzo Versace in the new Culture Village development in Dubai, UAE, with 217 rooms and suites all designed by Versace.
The style: classic Italian seaside style, with lots of marble,
The site: palazzo versace.com

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Brand to host MTV Video Music Awards
British comedian Russell Brand will return to host the MTV Video Music Awards, which promises to have performances all over Manhattan, including Radio City Music Hall. Taylor Swift and British rockers Muse will perform. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

ER star ill
Maura Tierney is to undergo surgery to remove a breast tumour. The ER actress revealed the news after it was announced her new show Parenthood was delayed due to illness. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Harry Potter takes a dark turn

Harry Potter and the **Half-Blood Prince**

Director: David Yates
Stars: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕½

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince is the sixth film based on author J.K. Rowling's series of books.

REVIEW If the fanciful world of Harry Potter were real, any parent who opted to send their kids to Hogwarts would need to have their head examined.

For why would any rational person allow their child to attend a school where lethal poisons are part of the curriculum, where the recreational sport is a brutal form of football played 100 feet in the air on flying broomsticks, and where an evil, homicidal monster attacks the student body at the climax of every school year?

This critic has never been able to get past this conceit but what do I know, really…

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, the sixth film based on author J.K. Rowling's phenomenally popular series of young adult novels is, as advertised, a leaner, meaner and far darker entry than 2007's Order of the Phoenix. But higher stakes and grimmer themes aside, this is ultimately just another Potter picture, as good and as flawed as any of them.

"Chosen One" Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) returns to Hogwarts for yet another fun-filled run of sweaty palmed teen angst and supernatural derring-do and once again, something sinister pulses in the periphery.

As Harry struggles through potions class with new teacher Horace Slughorn, utilizing a found textbook that once belonged to the mysterious titular Prince, antagonist Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton) may or may not be aligning himself with the Death Eaters, paving the way once again for the return of Lord Voldemort.

The film looks absolutely spectacular, with handsome production design, flawless digital effects and appropriately bleak, washed out cinematography. The young cast, especially Felton and Emma Watson, have matured into fine, unusually attractive screen presences and the older cast is first rate.

But the big issue I have with the Potter flicks is that they are almost entirely reliant on fans familiarity with the source novels and, in being almost scientifically faithful to those texts, they never feel like fully developed works in their own right.

Half-Blood Prince feels too long, yet far too underdeveloped to support its labyrinthine narrative and character arcs and is occasionally incomprehensible. Dramatic scene after effects soaked set piece follow each other, making the whole enterprise akin to a sort of "greatest hits" of the book.

Still, hardcore fans will likely eat it up. Casual viewers, maybe not so much.

- For Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince photos, a trailer and screen times, or to buy tickets, visit metronews.ca/movies.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince screen times

DOWNTOWN: Scotiabank Theatre, Wed-Thu 12-2:15-3:30-6-7:10-9:30-10:45 Wed 11:30-12:45-1:30-3-4:20-5:15-6:40-8-9-10:15 Thu 11:30-12:45-1:30-3-4:20-5:15-6:40-8-9:45-10:15; Market Square, Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30; Varsity, Wed-Thu 11:30-3-6:40-10:15 Wed 11:45-2:45-9:35 Thu 11:45-2:45-6:15-9:35; Yonge-Eglinton Centre, Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:45 Wed-Thu 11:30-3-6:40-10:15
WEST END: Queensway, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-1:30-3-3:30-5:15-6:40-7:10-9-10:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 12:45-4:20-8; Woodbine Centre, Wed-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:45-9:55
EAST END: Beach Cinemas, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-3-3:30-6:30-7-10-10:30
NORTH YORK: Empress Walk, Wed-Thu 12-12:30-1-2-3:30-4-4:30-5:30-7-7:30-8-9-10:30-11-11:30; SilverCity Yorkdale 6, ed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-3-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:10-8-10:15-10:45; Silvercity Fairview, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-3-3:30-6:30-7-10-10:30
SCARBOROUGH: Eglinton Town Centre, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-1:30-3-3:30-4:20-5:15-6:40-7:10-8-9-10:15-10:45; 401 & Morningside, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-3-3:30-6:30-7-10-10:15; Kennedy Commons 20, Wed-Thu 9-9:40-10:20-11-11:40-12:20-1-1:40-2:20-3-3:40-4:20-5-5:40-6:20-7-7:40-8:20-9-9:40-10:20-11
PEEL REGION: Coliseum 10, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-3-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:10-8-10:15-10:45; Courtney Park 16, Wed-Thu 11:15-11:55-12:45-1:15-2:45-3:30-4:15-4:45-6:15-7-7:45-8:15-9:45-10:30-11:15-11:50; Orion Gate Grande, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-3-3:30-6:30-7-10-10:30; SilverCity Mississauga, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-3-3:30-4:20-6:30-7-8-10-10:30
NORTH: 5 Drive-In, Wed-Thu 9:35; Aurora Cinemas, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-3-3:30-6:30-7-10-10:30; Colossus 19, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-1:30-3-3:30-4:20-5:15-6:40-7:10-8-9-10:15-10:45; Elgin Mills 10, Wed-Thu 12-1-3:30-4:30-7-8-10:30; First Markham Place, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-3-3:30-6:30-7-10-10:30; Promenade Mall, Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:45; SilverCity Newmarket, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-3-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:10-8-10:15-10:45; SilverCity Richmond Hill, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-3-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:10-8-10:15-10:45
HALTON: SilverCity Burlington 8, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-3-3:30-4:15-6:40-7:10-8-10:15-10:40; SilverCity Oakville, Wed-Thu 11:30-3-6:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 11:45-3:15-6:50-10:30; SilverCity Brampton, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-12:45-3-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:10-8-10:15-10:45
DURHAM: Ajax, Wed-Thu 11:30-11:50-3-3:20-6:30-6:50-10-10:20; Pickering 8, Wed-Thu 11:30-12-3-3:30-6:30-7-10-10:30; Whitby 24, Wed-Thu 9:15-10-10:30-11:15-12-12:45-1:30-2-2:45-3:30-4:15-5-5:30-6:15-7-7:45-8:30-9-9:45-10:30-11:15-11:45

- Times are subject to change. Complete listings are also available at metronews.ca/movies.

New book says Jackson considered living in Montreal

A new book about pop icon Michael Jackson's final years says the singer once considered moving to Montreal because polls indicated Quebecers rejected child abuse allegations made against him.

Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson, says the megastar behind such hits as Thriller and Bad spurned the United States after surveys indicated many Americans still thought him guilty even though he was acquitted of child abuse charges in 2005.

Author Ian Halperin, who oddly enough predicted in December 2008 that Jackson would be dead in six months, writes that Jackson's first choices for a new home were Britain and Berlin, followed by Montreal.

Jackson

Jackson died June 25. The cause of death has not yet been determined.

"Quebec had always held a special affection for Jackson and it happened to be the only jurisdiction in North America where polls showed that the majority of residents firmly rejected the child abuse allegations against him," Halperin writes in the book, released yesterday in English and French by Montreal's Transit Publishing.

Halperin cites unidentified associates of people who dealt with Jackson as well as "one of the city's leading realtors" for his information on the possible Montreal move.

The realtor told him and a group of people at a June 2007 cocktail party at the Montreal Grand Prix that she was in the process of selling Jackson a house and that he had already been to Montreal twice to look at potential properties.

"He came incognito," Halperin quotes the realtor as saying. "He even attended a hockey game while he was here."

Although Jackson was shown places in the upscale Westmount and Outremont districts, he didn't see anything that suited his needs. Privacy was paramount to him, the realtor said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Possible tribute

- The promoter of Michael Jackson's London tour says he will decide this week whether to hold a concert in London to mark the pop star's birthday at the end of August. AEG chief executive Randy Phillips said Tuesday that he is considering a show on Jackson's birthday on Aug. 29 with his siblings.

Cattrall, boyfriend split up

Kim Cattrall has split from her boyfriend of five years, Alan Wyse. "It was a long time coming, they had some trouble in April and since then things have fizzled out," a source tells OK! Magazine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Here goes Nothing

Japandroids bounce back after band member suffers injury

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

The timing couldn't have been worse.

When Vancouver's Japandroids released their long-awaited debut album, Post-Nothing, back on April 28, everything was going right for members Brian King (guitar) and Dave Prowse (drums). Highly influential music publication Pitchfork gave the album a glowing review and Exclaim! Magazine put the band on the cover.

But then later that same day came the announcement that King was rushed to a Calgary hospital for emergency surgery on a perforated ulcer, thus forcing the band to cancel a North American tour they'd waited almost three years for.

"Brian ended up being in the hospital for almost two weeks," Prowse explains. "He didn't pick up a guitar for another six weeks after that. In fact he couldn't do much of anything for another few weeks."

As the band remained stagnant, though, strong buzz helped their profile grow significantly. "It's funny, as disappointing as it was to have to cancel our first big tour, it was comforting to be getting all that good news during such a low point," says Prowse.

News for the band has just kept getting better and better since then. Set to tour into next spring, their album was recently included on the Polaris Music Prize long list and will soon see a worldwide release through respected indie label Polyvinyl on Aug. 4 — perfect timing for such a perfect summer record.

Vancouver's Japandroids' long-awaited debut, Post-Nothing, was released in April.

"I think it's a great road trip record since it's so high energy. Plus half the songs are about leaving your town for bigger and better things." Dave Prowse

With their hook-stuffed anthems, dual shout-out vocals and break-neck bustle, these industrious noise-pop mongers have found a cure to any summertime blues. Admits Prowse, "I think it's a great road trip record since it's so high energy. Plus half the songs are about leaving your town for bigger and better things."

Japandroids have left Vancouver and are finally back on the road for their first ever North American tour — of course, against doctor's advice. "I tried to get Brian to tone his end of the performance down a bit, but he won't listen," Prowse says. "He's probably the most stubborn person I know. It's still the same old show — a sweaty, crazy party."

But timing couldn't be better now for the duo, as they're just at the same stage they were when Post-Nothing was first released by Unfamiliar Records two-and-a-half months ago. Prowse says he and King are grateful for a second opportunity.

"We're really lucky to get another chance to go on a great tour like this. We had been counting down to this for quite a while, and it's really exciting for it to be really happening. It's been so much fun so far."

Japandroids live

- Japandroids perform Thursday at the El Mocambo.

First baby on the way
Victoria's Secret model Karolina Kurkova is pregnant. "Supermodel and actress Karolina Kurkova and her fiancé, film producer Archie Drury, have announced that they are expecting their first child," her rep says. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

International appeal

Winnipeg's Meaghan Waller crowned Top Model

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Meaghan Waller doesn't know where she found the gusto to stomp it out so powerfully in the final runway show on Canada's Next Top Model.

But the competition's newly crowned winner said the final challenge that propelled her to victory was the most amazing experience of her life.

"It was like a euphoria, with all the lights and cheering," said Winnipeg's Waller in the Toronto Fashion District office of her new representation, Elmer Olsen Model Management. "I'm pretty much on cloud nine."

Last night's finale began with the three finalists partaking in their last photo shoot — a bold solo cover image for Fashion Magazine. Nikita Kiceluk of Calgary, Alta., appeared to have the upper hand, having been praised earlier for her strong editorial look. And while Waller's appearance is comparably softer than her competitors, she received largely positive feedback by the creative team on set.

However, it was Edmonton's Linsay Willier, donning a straight-on smile in her image, who ended up capturing the client's favour, winning the challenge and securing her spot in the final two.

And despite her past performance, Kiceluk crumbled in front of the judges, who continued to contend a self-deprecating front was holding the hopeful back from exuding the confidence required in the modelling industry.

"She plays it off as though she's the most confident girl you would meet, but I always think there's something underlying," said Waller. "You can't be that confident."

Instead, the panel selected Waller to join Willier in a final runway showdown that would determine the competition's winner.

Canada's Next Top Model winner Meaghan Waller says modelling is more than "just a pretty face."

In a runway show for fashion design team The Blonds, the dressed-up duo competed for the attention of the judges, who evaluated them from the audience's front row.

Willier's past runway acclaim was maintained during the show, as she marched strong and focused. But Waller wowed the judges with an unexpectedly powerful walk they hadn't seen from her before.

When the judges were forced to choose between the women who had appeared to perform equally well, tempers took hold and tears streamed. But it was Waller's perceived international appeal that inched her ahead of Willier, to win the third cycle of the competition.

"I think I ended up winning in the end because I'm a fresh face, I'm new to the industry and something people haven't seen before," said Waller. "I'm very versatile and will hopefully be a very good role model."

With her newfound publicity, Waller said she aims to raise awareness for many causes including cancer research, having had several loved ones affected by the disease.

"I want to make it known that modelling is not just a pretty face in a couple of photo shoots. It's a lot more than that."

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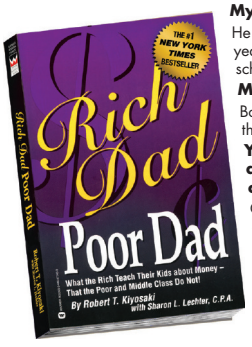

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Embracing 'ethnic comedy'

Newfoundland's Majumder to host diverse comedy show this week

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Comic Shaun Majumder says his Indian heritage hasn't limited him at all in Hollywood.

"Not really, no. Well, you do get called in to play a lot of Indian doctors," says Majumder in a call from Los Angeles, where's he's lived, off and on, for the last decade.

The "Indian doctor" likely refers to last year's turn as Freddy on the Farrelly Brothers' short-lived Fox series Unhitched.

More infamous was his 2007 appearance as a middle-eastern terrorist on 24 in which the Newfoundland-born Majumder got to nuke California.

24 has never recovered from that explosive "high point" with its audience.

"That's what I heard. Happy to deliver," jokes Majumder, who says for the most part, the roles he tries out for in Hollywood are wide-ranging.

"I did just do a pilot for ABC recently where I played just a single dad. Didn't get picked up though. But you go where the work is.

"And I got to say, there's no place I'd rather be in February than here."

July in Canada is just fine, however. Majumder is scheduled to host Toronto's Just for Laughs Festival's Ethnic Comedy Show — which runs Friday and Saturday at the Winter Garden Theater.

Performers include Godfrey, Daniel Kinno and Steve Byrne. Majumder doesn't feel the title "ethnic comedy show" should restrict its audience.

"Just the opposite now. We're all shapes, sizes, breeds and species in Canada. Well, maybe not Alberta. No. That's not true either now. Sorry Alberta."

Majumder also recently appeared with Tiger Woods and NBA great Charles Barkley at a golf charity event in Nova Scotia, where he witnessed Barkley's legendary bad golf swing.

"He's got a real good swing on the practice range, but on the course he's got a real hiccup. It's ugly. It's a real mental thing.

In the fall, Majumder is looking forward to another season of This Hour Has 22 Minutes, where he's been a cast regular since 2003.

His sweaty reporter Raj Binder remains one of the show's most-loved bits.

"I really feel like I walked into an institution there," he says.

"Ten years from now, the show will still be running with another entirely different cast."

Tickets for the Toronto Just For Laughs Ethnic Comedy Show are on sale now. Details are available at hahaha.com/toronto.

Shaun Majumber, brings an Indian flavour to this year's Toronto Just for Laughs Festival

Just for Laughs

The Toronto Just for Laughs Festival runs until Sunday at venues around the city. For full details visit hahaha.com. Here's a glance at what's on:

Today
- The Canadian Masters, Absolute Comedy, 8:30 p.m.
- John Lequizamo Live, Berkeley Street Theatre, 8 p.m.
- The Danny Bhoy Show, St. Lawrence Centre, 7 p.m.
- Jon Dore Show, The Rivoli, 8 p.m.
- John Caparulo and Jimmy Carr, Yuk Yuk's, 8 p.m.

Tomorrow
- The Canadian Masters, Absolute Comedy, 8:30 p.m.
- John Lequizamo Live, Berkeley Street Theatre, 8 p.m.
- The Danny Bhoy Show, St. Lawrence Centre, 7 p.m.
- All-Star Galas, Massey Hall, 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
- Jon Dore Show, The Rivoli, 8 p.m.
- Bo Burham, French Comedy Bastards and a sketch show, Second City, 7 p.m. and onward.
- Colin and Brad, St. Lawrence Centre, 7:30 p.m.
- Todd Glass and Steve Byrne, Yuk Yuk's, 8 p.m.

Timberlake's golf course set to open

ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF Justin Timberlake's Mirimichi golf course is set to open July 25 in suburban Memphis after a $16 million US renovation aimed at making it environmentally friendly.

The Commercial Appeal reported that Timberlake invested in reconstruction of the former Big Creek Golf Course after buying it late in 2007.

Timberlake bought the golf course to save it from commercial development.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carlin gets 'Last Words' in new book

COMEDY Some final thoughts are coming from George Carlin.

Free Press, an imprint of Simon&Schuster, said yesterday that the comedian's book Last Words will be published in November.

Carlin died in June 2008 at age 71 and worked on the book for the last decade of his life. He collaborated on it with author and humorist Tony Hendra. Carlin's other books included Brain Droppings and Napalm and Silly Putty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Model with a bun in the oven

Victoria's Secret model Karolina Kurkova is pregnant, according to her rep. Kurkova and her fiancé, film producer Archie Drury, are expecting their first child. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

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Catching up with 'LC'

Lauren Conrad wants to be known as more than just the former star of MTV's The Hills. And now she is.

Her first book for teens, L.A. Candy (HarperCollins), has topped The New York Times best-seller list for children's chapter books. For two straight weeks, Conrad's novel about a young woman living in Los Angeles, who gets discovered for her own reality show, has made the list.

Conrad, 23, who left the show in May, has a deal to write two more books about the characters.

Speaking from New York, she recently chatted about L.A. Candy, paparazzi and frenemy Heidi Montag Pratt's faith.

Q People are going to read this book and look for similarities in your life but you say it's fiction, right?

A It's very similar to my lifestyle and the experience that I went through as far as, you know, emotionally and just the changes that just happened in my life. But as far as specific experiences, it's different. All the things that happened in this book were made up.

Q What did you learn about writing a book?

A The deadlines can be stressful because it's kind of a forced creativity. You want to take your time and the publisher's like, 'Yeah, but we're gonna need it in like a week.' I kind of felt my first draft needed to be perfect, and I learned as I went along you can make changes and figure it out along the way.

Q Heidi Montag Pratt was very vocal about her faith on I'm a Celebrity . . . Get Me Out of Here, which we never saw on The Hills. Was she always that religious when you were roommates?

A She was religious definitely. I don't think she was as vocal about it but, yeah, I remember she usually had a Bible by her bed.

Q There are pictures of you every week in the tabloids. Do you feel a pressure to always look presentable when you leave the house?

A I used to get stressed over it. I moved actually to a different area. In our old home we had anywhere up to six cars waiting full of photographers outside. If I wanted to walk my dog, run out to the grocery store real quick, it was like a thing. I remember there were days I felt I couldn't leave the house . . . I don't really care as much anymore.

Lauren Conrad

Q What's it like to be in line at the grocery store and see your face on the cover of a magazine?

A I try to ignore it unless it says something bad and then I'm like, "Bummer! I just wanted to get produce." (Laughs.)

Q Do you keep in touch with anyone from The Hills?

A Lo (Lauren Bosworth) is still my roommate and I speak regularly with Stephanie Pratt (Spencer-Pratt's sister) and Whitney Port is a very good friend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
7/15/09 primetime	265	353	2 TVO	Life in Cold Blood		The Best of The Agenda		Admission Impossible		Chinese School		Best-Agenda
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		(9:02) In Plain Sight		The Philanthropist (N)		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (HDTV)		Throw-Stones	Laughs	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Goode Family	Surviving Sub.	Japanese Game Show		Krod Mandoon	Krod Mandoon	News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Top 10 dancers perform.				CSI: NY (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Psych		D. Richards	Kendra	Kardashians	Candy Girls	News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama été	Esprit	Sur la Piste de	Villages	*Inguélézi* ★★ (2004, Drame) Marie Payen, Éric Caravaca.				Esprit
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	According-Jim	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*A Young Connecticut Yankee* ★★ (1995, Comedy)				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	America's Got Talent		America's Got Talent (N)		The Philanthropist (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		Japanese Game Show		Primetime: Crime (HDTV)		News (N)
	219	346	20 ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	America's Got Talent (N)		Monk (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance Top 10 dancers perform.				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Wait for God	Time Team America (N)		Ascent of Money (DVS)		Wide Angle (HDTV)		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Geologic Journey		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		Porn: Business of Pleasure (N)		Porn: Business of Pleasure		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	Darts World Premier League.				Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30 TSN	Billiards: WPBA		World Poker Tour				SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Cycling Tour de France -- Stage 11. From Vatan to Saint-Fargeau.						Cycling
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time (N)	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Survive This	Adrenaline	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Style by Jury	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Love It or List It		*Hush* (2005, Suspense) Tori Spelling.		
	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Technical Diff.	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Deadline"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Tattoo High.
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Elisa di Rivombosa		Elisa di Rivombosa		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Project Dad	Project Dad	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		The Guard (HDTV)		*My Name Is Sarah* (2007, Romance-Comedy)				House
	620	523	40 BVO	The Achievers	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Faking It"		Cities of the Underworld		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Faking It"		Marine Mach.
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Tosh.0	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Bad News Bears* ★★ (2005, Comedy) Billy Bob Thornton, Greg Kinnear.					Seinfeld	*Bad News*
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Boyz N the Hood* ★★★ (1991, Drama) Larry Fishburne.				The Game	The Game	W. Williams
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval (N)		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Room Raiders	After	MTV News	Cribs	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	The Real World		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	The Crow: Stairway to Heaven		What Happen?	What Happen?	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Fresh-Anna	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		The Next Food	Network Star	Opening Soon
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	Doc Martin "In Loco"		I Prophesy	Supernatural	Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Canada's Next Top Model		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Les Gags	Histoires-filles	Les Anges de la rénovation		Nos étés (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:35) Juste pour rire (SC)	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium		The Closer (Part 1 of 2)		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	(6:55) *Closing the Ring* (2007, Drama), Mischa Barton				*The Bourne Ultimatum* ★★★ (2007, Action) Matt Damon.				*Planet Terror*
	305	612	306 PIX	*Romeo Must*	(7:40) *Calendar* ★★ (1993, Drama)			*Cube* ★★ (1997, Science Fiction)			(10:40) *Ignition* (2002)	

critics'corner

South Park

Poor Stan. Wendy doesn't want to be his girlfriend anymore, and he's crushed. To cheer him up, his friends take him to Raisins, a restaurant that bears a striking resemblance to Hooters but with much younger waitresses. It doesn't work, so Stan tries hanging out with the Goth kids instead. Butters, meanwhile, mistakes one waitress's friendliness for True Love. Something tells us this won't end well. 9:30 PM on COM

Throwing Stones

It's sort of a Canadian "Steel Magnolias" — but the curling in this dramedy pilot takes place in a rink, not a hair salon. It's the story of four working-class women in Winnipeg who find a common bond as members of a ladies curling club. Oscar winner Patty Duke leads a cast that includes Lolita Davidovich ("ZOS: Zone of Separation"), Caroline Neron ("Traders"), Stephanie Mills ("Rumours") and Barbara Radecki ("Getting Along Famously"). 9 PM on CBC

'Bonnie and Clyde' director in hospital

ILLNESS Arthur Penn, who directed the films Bonnie and Clyde and The Miracle Worker, is in a New York hospital with pneumonia and can't attend a Maine film festival as planned.

Penn, who is 86, was to have received an award at the Maine International Film Festival in Waterville today. A Festival director said Penn, who lives in Stockbridge, Mass., will miss the festival, but a special guest will accept the award for him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Early films announced for 2009 TIFF

MOVIES Projects from celebrated directors Steven Soderbergh and Jane Campion and actors Matt Damon, Ricky Gervais, Edward Norton and Clive Owen are among the films set to unspool at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

Organizers announced four galas for the annual movie marathon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mango model
Scarlett Johansson's first advert campaign for Mango has been released, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Hollywood beauty sizzles in a series of sultry images for the Spanish retailer's Autumn/Winter 09 collection. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Big birthday bust

WHAT A NICE GUY Tony Romo picked quite the day to call it quits with longtime girlfriend Jessica Simpson. The NFL quarterback reportedly dumped the singer the night before her big, Barbie and Ken-themed birthday bash, which she promptly cancelled.

"Jess was too heartbroken to have a big bash," a source tells Gatecrasher. The reason for the split was simple, says another source: "Jessica was ready to settle down, and Tony was not."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Janet wants the children

FIGHT FOR CUSTODY Janet Jackson wants custody of Michael Jackson's three children, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The late star had reportedly discussed his wishes for his kids — Prince Michael I, 12, Paris, 11, and Prince Michael II, 7, known as Blanket — in the event of his death and was even planning to draft a new will to amend custody details. A source said: "There was a lot of rifts in the family, but Janet was the one person he spoke to regularly and he made sure the children kept in touch with her too.

"Ultimately, he wanted Janet to look after the children, with help from his mother Katherine, and was planning to draft a new will to reflect those wishes"

Janet has the support of her siblings in taking over as primary caregiver.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Partying could ruin my music

IS THAT A BAD THING? Katy Perry refuses to overdo it when she's partying — because she's worried it will ruin her pop career, femalefirst.co.uk reports. "I've seen too many people live that way and almost wreck their careers ... These days I see the wisdom in having a good night's sleep."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beckham backs off Jolie ad

AVOIDING THE DOG HOUSE David Beckham has refused to star in an advert with Angelina Jolie because he is married, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The British soccer star — who recently celebrated his tenth wedding anniversary with wife Victoria — doesn't want to upset his spouse by posing for an Emporio Armani underwear campaign with the stunning Hollywood star, who is in a relationship with Brad Pitt. He told TV show Extra: "You know she wouldn't do it and I wouldn't do it.

"At the end of the day, I wouldn't do it because I'm married." Last week, it was claimed Beckham and Jolie were set to team up for a steamy set of ads.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Back and better than ever?

ISLAND REHAB Amy Winehouse is back. She arrived in the U.K. from St. Lucia Monday, looking initially tearful to be home, but healthier than she has for ages, people.com reports.

Winehouse, 25, who has been in the Caribbean island for much of the year is planning on catching up with friends and working on her new music. But most noticeable is her improved complexion and fuller figure.

"She is good. She has been looking after herself," says a friend. "She did a lot of exercise and she has been eating better. Look at her — she is not what she was."

Tales of her going on alcoholic benders are exaggerated, friends say. "She is Amy Winehouse and has a drink. But she has improved considerably." The source adds, "She has had to cope with some huge problems, including her marriage of course."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fox slams her movie

BUT THE MONEY IS NICE
Megan Fox can't seem to stop herself from slamming her new film, Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen. "I forced myself to sit down for Transformers 2," Fox says, according to the Sun. "I shot an entire glass of champagne so that I could get through it."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Lohan's hair getting thin?

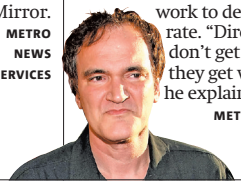
IS THAT MY SCALP SHOWING? Word is going around Hollywood that Lindsay Lohan's love of hair extensions is wreaking havoc on her locks. The starlet was spotted slipping out of a nightclub early in the morning the other day looking gaunt and tired. "She appears to have a thinning hairline," a source tells the Mirror.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Retiring at 60

ALRIGHTY THEN Quentin Tarantino tells GQ that he'll retire from filmmaking when he turns 60 because he doesn't want his work to deteriorate. "Directors don't get better, they get worse," he explains.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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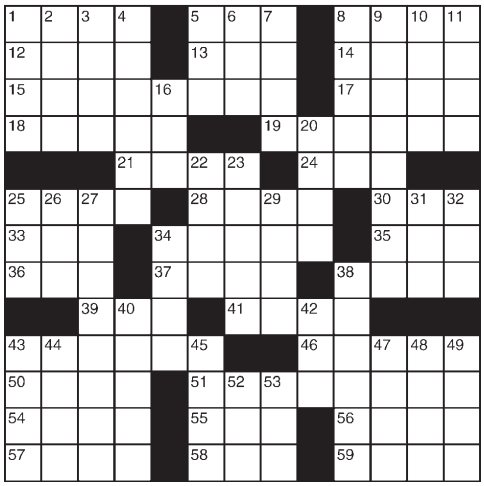

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

9			6					
7		8		5	4			2
	4	5	7					
						4	1	
2		1				5		8
	9	6						
					3	6	9	
8			9	2		3		1
					5			7

Crossword across

1 Otherwise
5 Sushi offering
8 Rue the run
12 First slayer
13 Pint in a pub
14 Crucifix
15 Looker
17 North Sea feeder
18 Actor Davis
19 Connective tissue
21 Dalai —
24 Ungraceful one
25 Doily feature
28 It takes the cake
30 Corn spike
33 Past
34 Rorschach images
35 Historic time
36 Solidify
37 Valhalla VIP
38 Mulligan, for one
39 "CSI" find
41 Moist
43 Secret Service agent, often
46 Run off to marry
50 Therefore
51 Trouble
54 Doves' home
55 Big bother
56 Men-only
57 Pianist Dame Myra
58 Infinitesimal
59 "Bonanza" role

Crossword down

1 Reverberate
2 Cambodia neighbor
3 Perches
4 Store fodder
5 Water (Fr.)
6 2003 Will Ferrell movie
7 Remaining
8 Where the action is
9 Strong apprehension
10 Bum
11 Paradise
16 Afternoon social
20 A really long time
22 Jell-O creation
23 Duck
25 Trail behind
26 Time of your life?
27 Deli assortment
29 Sicilian spouter
31 "You — There"
32 Uncivilized
34 Wild porker
38 1984 Tom Hanks movie
40 Attendance count?
42 Kitten's call
43 Leave a good impression?
44 Old woman's home?
45 Spring occurrence
47 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
48 Carrots' partners
49 Work units
52 Praise in verse
53 Pirouette pivot

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

4	6	7	5	2	8	9	1	3
3	2	8	9	6	1	4	7	5
1	5	9	3	4	7	6	2	8
8	4	6	1	5	2	3	9	7
2	9	3	8	7	6	1	5	4
5	7	1	4	9	3	2	8	6
6	3	5	2	8	9	7	4	1
9	1	4	7	3	5	8	6	2
7	8	2	6	1	4	5	3	9

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Spicy Crab with Chili Mayo

INGREDIENTS:
1 green chilli pepper
1 small green pepper
1 small red onion
3 scallions
4 dressed crabs in their shells, to yield 1 lb (500 g) crab meat
3 oz (85 g) ricotta cheese
Salt and black pepper
1 1/4 cups (300 ml) French mayonnaise
1 tsp (5 ml) dried chili flakes
4 slices of white bread

METHOD:
1. Rinse, dry, deseed and finely slice peppers. Halve, peel and thinly slice red onion. Rinse, dry, trim and slice scallions, including some of green parts, and put all into mixing bowl.
2. Take crab meat out of shells and add to mixing bowl with ricotta cheese, stirring until well combined. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
3. Stir chili flakes into mayonnaise and season with salt and pepper if necessary. Place in serving bowl and set aside.
4. Toast bread, quarter into triangles, and arrange on serving platter. Pile crab mixture in centre and place bowl of chili mayonnaise on one side.
5. Let each person help themselves to crab mixture, spreading on toast and topping with chili-flavoured mayonnaise.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Little things will annoy you today and you will snap at people who move too slow for your liking.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Minor setbacks are just that — minor — so don't get worked up about them. A positive attitude is a must if you are going to overcome obstacles today.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You could lose out if you let someone persuade you that what their heart says should be allowed to overrule what your head is telling you.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Other people's demands are simply too much and the sooner you let them know you have no intention of giving in to them, the better.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Everyone seems to be running around in a blind panic at the moment. Why? It's not as if the current crisis — so-called — is something new.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You are allowed to disagree with the powers that be and you are allowed to express your opinions in any way and at any level you see fit.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone in a position of authority won't take kindly to you pointing out where they've gone wrong, but do so anyway.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't be too eager to draw conclusions from limited information. Just because the facts point in a single direction does not mean it's right.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A personal matter you were hoping to keep secret will become common knowledge today and you won't be pleased.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Common sense is a commodity that appears to be in short supply at the moment, so don't expect others to see things as clearly as you.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You expect so much of yourself that, inevitably, you sometimes fall short and feel like a failure. Jupiter in your sign is once again raising your ambitions.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
The Sun remains in the most dynamic area of your chart just one more week and you should make use of it to succeed at a creative project.

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LOTTO 649

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LOTTO 649

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Jackpot Amount

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Draw Date: _____

	NAME	NUMBERS OR QUICK PICK	SIGNATURE	PHONE	$	PAID
1		QUICK PICK				
2		QUICK PICK				
3		QUICK PICK				
4		QUICK PICK				
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10		QUICK PICK				
11		QUICK PICK				
12		QUICK PICK				
13		QUICK PICK				
14		QUICK PICK				

Lottery Group Play Form Disclaimer

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